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PART 23.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

1903.

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ERRATA.

Page 18, No. 31, line 5. "Messrs. Parienete" should be "Messrs. Pariente."
Page 54, No. 91, line 2. For "24th instant" read "23rd instant.
Page 62, No. 111, line 4. For "commerce" read "commence."
Page 64, No. 117, line 1. For "3rd February" read "2nd February."
Page 110, No. 215, lines 1 and 2. For "13th and 15th January respectively" read "25th March."
Page 188, No. 338, line 4. For "past the Mulud feast" read "pass the Mulud feast."
Page 225, No. 407. For "*Tangier, June* 6," read "*Tangier, July* 6."
Page 285, No. 510, line 2. For "sent to the latter" read "sent to the letter."

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.

Part 23.

No. 1.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 1, 1903.)

(No. 489. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, December* 31, 1902.

M. DELCASSÉ held his weekly reception yesterday, Tuesday, one day earlier than usual; but I found him suffering from a loss of voice, which made it a great effort for him to engage in conversation.

In answer to my inquiry as to his news from Morocco and his opinion upon the situation there, he gave me the information which I at once reported to your Lordship in my telegram No. 80 of yesterday.

He repeated several times that he was "very anxious." His anxiety is, in the first place, concerned with the fate of the Europeans in the interior. As regards those in the coast towns, he expressed the opinion that they are in no immediate danger, and consequently that, for the moment, no maritime demonstration need be made.

His Excellency insisted strongly on this point, saying that he deprecated any step which might have the appearance of an intention of intervening, or which would, at any rate, be so interpreted by the Moors, and which would thus stimulate and propagate the fanaticism and resentment against Europeans and their influence, which had apparently encouraged the revolt of the Pretender, Bu Hamara.

A second cause for anxiety was very naturally the effect ("répercussion") which the struggle would have upon the frontier tribes of Algeria, if not upon the whole province itself. He could not help hoping that that struggle would be quickly and decisively settled one way or another on the spot. To my suggestion that such a consummation meant very probably the death of the Sultan, and the extinction of the dynasty by the murder of His Majesty's elder brother, and of any other relatives of the family who may be in existence, his Excellency assented with a gesture of indifference, and observed that he did not know what relatives, besides the elder brother, there might be, but, in a country where polygamy obtains, they might, of course, be numerous. Neither did he know anything of the character of the leader of the revolt, or whether he was a man likely to seize upon the throne for himself.

As your Lordship will have learned from my telegram, M. Delcassé declared that no movement of ships of war to the Morocco coast had been made by the French Government; and he assured me that there was not, to his knowledge, a single French cruiser off that coast.

Your Lordship will also have learned from my telegram that M. Delcassé thought that it might become necessary for the Powers interested to concert with each other as to the conduct to be adopted in common.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

The conversation, which must have cost his Excellency considerable effort, was naturally not a very long one; but M. Delcassé took pains to impress upon me that the situation in Morocco was causing him "great anxiety," repeating the statement at intervals during the whole time I was with him.

The Government, however, have done nothing to betray their anxiety to the public; and the official communication made to the press, as usual, after the Cabinet Council held yesterday morning at the Élysée, merely states that the Minister of Foreign Affairs informed the President and Ministers of the nature of the reports which he had received.

I can have little doubt that if M. Delcassé's hope of a speedy settlement on the spot is realized (a contingency which, of course, involves the disappearance of the Sultan), there will be no regret in France at what has happened. The incident will, on the contrary, be welcomed as the downfall of British influence in Morocco; and, indeed, the catastrophe will, in all probability, be attributed exclusively to British policy.

I understand that M. Cambon, who was to have remained in Paris for the moment, started for London yesterday, and your Lordship will probably have seen him before this despatch reaches your hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 2.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 1.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, January 1, 1903.*

LAST night I gave the message which the telegram from your Lordship, dated the 30th December, contained to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom I saw at a dance. He repeated his former assurances and expressed much satisfaction at the message. His Excellency further made reference to the newspaper reports concerning an alliance between Spain and France, which he described as foolish; he added, at the same time, that he had received a visit from the Chargé d'Affaires of France, who had talked rather nonsensically, and had been told clearly that it was the intention of Spain to remain on good terms with Great Britain.

No. 3.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 1.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 1, 1903.*

THE Spanish cruiser "Infanta Isabel," which has, I am told, been placed at the disposal of the Spanish Minister here, in order to facilitate his communications with Ceuta and Melilla, arrived here this morning.

The Spanish telegraph cable to their African possessions is broken down.

No news from Fez has reached me yet.

No. 4.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 1.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 1, 1903.*

LETTERS dated the 26th December have reached Tangier from Fez this evening. I received no news, but the French Minister informs me that his Vice-Consul reports that the situation has undergone no material change.

Certain preparations are being made by the Moorish Government to resist any attack on the town, but they do not seem to be alive to the necessity of provisioning it. The price of food is very high, and in consequence, there is much discontent among the lower classes.

The French Vice-Consul estimates that the Sultan lost, in the recent fight, about 5,000 men, more than half his total force, captured or killed.

Many of these have joined the Pretender's army, the strength of which he estimates at 15,000; but the French Vice-Consul thinks that many of these will not leave their districts should an advance be made.

It is said that the Pretender is sending letters to all the neighbouring tribes, to induce them to take up his cause, and is now awaiting replies.

The situation on the whole, though still critical, was not worse on the 26th December.

No. 5.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January 1, 1903.*

COMMUNICATE to Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of telegram No. 60 of the 31st December, from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier, which I am repeating to you, deprecating in present position of affairs, the presence of foreign ships of war at Tangier or other Moorish ports.

You should state at the same time that His Majesty's Government, while recognizing that Spain has an exceptional position on account of her possessions on the Moorish Coast, are acting in accordance with the views expressed by Sir A. Nicolson, as they consider them to be sound.

His Majesty's Government will therefore increase the number of British ships at Gibraltar, but will not send any to Moorish ports unless asked for by His Majesty's Minister at Tangier.

No. 6.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Gosselin.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January 1, 1903.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 31 of the 30th December, I am repeating to you three telegrams which will enable you to explain our view of the situation in Morocco, and that of the French Government, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The number of our ships at Gibraltar is being increased, but there appears to be a general agreement that at this juncture it would be undesirable to make any active demonstration on the Moorish coast.

The Spanish garrisons at Ceuta and Melilla are being reinforced to bring them up to their normal strength, but they will not be increased beyond that amount at present.

No. 7.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 2.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, January 2, 1903.*

YOUR Lordship's instructions respecting ships of war have been received, and I will to-day see Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject.

The Spanish press continues to be satisfactory in tone, and there is, I think, a general desire that any unnecessary action in Morocco should be avoided.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 8.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 2.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 2, 1903.

I HAVE received information from the Portuguese Minister that the Portuguese cruiser "Donna Amelia" will arrive here to-day.

Count Martens-Ferrao had asked that no ship of war should be sent, but he thinks that his Government were led to believe that something had occurred by the arrival of the Spanish cruiser.

He intends not to keep her here, but to send her straight to Gibraltar at once.

No. 9.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 3, 1903.)

(No. 186. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 24, 1902.

THE German Minister informed me that he paid a visit yesterday to Hadj Mohammed Torres, the Sultan's Deputy, and found his Excellency much put out by a note he had just received from the French Minister, to the effect that, as the Moorish Government had delayed settling the questions pending between them and the Legation, the French Government declined to accept the project in regard to rural taxation.

Baron de Mentzingen had ascertained from Hadj Mohammed Torres that the only questions pending were:—

1. The ratification and execution of the Paris Convention concerning the frontier.
2. Better house accommodation for the French Military Mission.
3. The settlement of some old money claim.

Baron de Mentzingen added that Hadj Mohammed Torres had said that formerly the French Legation had made their assent to the taxation scheme dependent on the conclusion of the pending questions, but the last communication was peremptory, and, apparently, was a definite refusal to agree to the proposed taxes in any circumstances.

Baron de Mentzingen thought that a final refusal was possibly not intended, and that, if the outstanding questions were settled, the French Government might be prepared to reconsider the decision conveyed in their note to the Sultan's Deputy.

From what I recently gather from Cid Benasser Ghannam, the Commissioner charged with the negotiations with the Diplomatic Body on the taxation project, I am inclined to think that, beyond the above-mentioned questions, the French Legation consider that the relations which the Sultan is pleased to entertain with the Europeans at his Court should not be limited so exclusively to those of one nationality, and that His Majesty should make no distinction as to who should be his associates.

Personal idiosyncracies enter into such a question with which it would be somewhat delicate to deal, and I think the Sultan's predilections are not so much governed by political considerations as by the facility with which our compatriots are able to enter into the spirit of His Majesty's favourite pastimes. It is possible that the newly-appointed French military officers may effect an improvement in the direction desired by the French Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 10.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 3, 1903.)

(No. 187.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 26, 1902.

LETTERS from Fez, dated the 21st instant, which reached me yesterday, stated that an action had taken place on the 20th instant between the Government forces and those of the Pretender near Tsul, the locality whither, as I reported in my despatch No. 177 of the 13th instant, the Pretender had moved after establishing a Government at Taza.

Sir H. Maclean informs me, on the authority of the Minister of War, that the Government forces were victorious, and that the Commander of the expedition stated that he was sending to Fez several heads and prisoners.

On the other hand, His Majesty's Vice-Consul tells me that a Shereef of his acquaintance, who has property in the district near Tsul, informed him that he had learnt from a messenger, who had arrived from the locality where the action occurred, that the Government forces had been driven back, and that the Pretender's adherents subsequently plundered and destroyed property in the Hiaïna district. Mr. Macleod added that he had not had time to verify or contest this information.

The reports the Court have circulated throughout the Pretender's movement have generally been of an optimistic character, and not always in accordance with the facts; and I am inclined to believe that the action was of an indecisive character.

The French Minister tells me that his news is not so recent as that which I have received, and he was, therefore, unable to corroborate or contradict either version. He read to me a report he had received from the Chief of the French Military Mission, who stated that the Government were endeavouring, by offers of considerable sums of money, to persuade the Chiefs of the Ghiata tribe to desert the cause of the Pretender, and that possibly such inducements would meet with a certain measure of success. On the other hand, the French Commandant reported that the desertions from the Sultan's forces will be numerous, though he was unable to state whether the deserters joined the insurrectionary movement or simply returned to their homes. The report added that, nevertheless, the Sultan had at his disposal a sufficient force to overawe the tribes if it was vigorously and intelligently handled. Taza, the report mentioned in conclusion, was still in the hands of the adherents of the Pretender.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 11.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 3, 1903.)

(No. 189.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 27, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting a serious defeat which has been inflicted on the Government forces by the adherents of the Pretender.

The French Minister was good enough to read to me a despatch he had simultaneously received from the French Vice-Consul at Fez, and which was to the same effect.

It is clear that a most serious situation has arisen. The Sultan will, I fear, be shortly shut up in Fez in the midst of a discontented and hungry population, and with a much diminished force, on whose loyalty little reliance can be placed. If the Pretender enters Fez, a contingency which I am afraid is quite possible, the downfall of the Sultan is certain, and the chances of his even preserving his life would be exceedingly slender. Such an event would inevitably lead to grave disorders throughout the country, and every native would act as seemed just in his own eyes.

Moreover, if reports are correct, the Pretender, or whoever would ascend the throne, would do so on the understanding that he should wage a holy war. The consequences of this would be far-reaching, and probably, if it were to be actively taken up, would not be limited to the confines of Morocco. It is premature, however, to enter into these considerations.

In regard to the present situation, my chief uneasiness is for the safety of the Europeans at Fez. I think there must be some twenty British subjects there, and I should say about the same number of foreigners of all other nationalities. I have instructed Mr. MacLeod to take whatever measures he considers desirable for insuring their safety, and have said that he has full authority, if he considers it necessary, to request the Sultan, in my name, to send the British subjects at once to Tangier under proper escort. Mr. MacLeod, however, apparently is quite alive to this question; and I have every confidence in his judgment and good sense. As a measure of precaution, I have sent a Circular to all Consular officers to warn all British subjects travelling or resident in the interior that, in my opinion, it would be prudent for them to come into the coast towns as soon as they conveniently can.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

If all British subjects can be assembled in the ports their protection will be a matter of no difficulty, in the event of a general rising taking place in the country. At the same time, I would suggest that it would be advisable to reinforce the squadron at Gibraltar in case ships were required at the several coast towns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 72.,
Sir, *Fez, December* 24, 1902.

I REGRET to have to report the following news:—

So far there are no verified details to submit, but the net sum of the news is that the Amrani's and Mulai El Kibeer's forces have been completely defeated by Buhamara's partisans, who also succeeded in capturing the Government camp, with its contents of money, guns, arms and ammunition, on the night of Sunday to Monday, the 21st to the 22nd instant. This was the end of two days' fighting, in which neither side had any advantage.

There seems to have been, latterly, a "sauve qui peut." Since dawn fugitives from the fight have been arriving, the last of them being two Amranis and Mulai El Kibeer themselves.

Naturally, the city is much excited by all this, and shops have been shut, and business generally is suspended.

The Basha has been so busy giving directions to the chiefs of quarters for the keeping of order, and so on, that I have been unable to see him.

The authorities have put guards at the various city gates to disarm all tribesmen coming in from the country.

Meanwhile, a Conference is going on at the Palace.

The various contingents from the south (the Kaïd of Glawi and others) are still encamped north-west and north of the city, and not to the east, as erroneously indicated on the last photo-map I sent privately to you.

I have seen the French Vice-Consul and the German Acting Vice-Consul, and we concur in thinking it will be well to wait until the situation is a little clearer before issuing any notices to our respective subjects, or making joint representations to the Moorish authorities.

I am, however, asking the few British subjects here, not in the Sultan's service, to come here and live in this house for a few days if they feel insecure. They consist of Miss Mellett, Miss Denison, Miss Greathead, and Mrs. Simpson, of the North Africa Mission.

I will, of course, keep you informed by special messengers of the progress of events.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 12.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 3.)

(No 1.)
My Lord, *Paris, January* 1, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of an extract from to-day's "Matin" announcing that the French garrisons on the South-western Algerian frontier have been, or are about to be, reinforced; that the "Du Chayla" at present at Oran, is held ready to proceed to Tangier, and that orders have been given for the available ships of the Mediterranean squadron to hold themselves in readiness to sail for Oran or Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Extract from the "Matin" of January 1, 1903.

NOUS avons dit hier que le Conseil des Ministres de Mardi s'était préoccupé da la situation au Maroc et des obligations que, le cas échéant, elle pourrait imposer à le France.

Nous sommes en mesure, aujourd'hui, d'indiquer en les précisant les quelques mesures de précaution qui ont été prises: tout d'abord, les diverses garnisons qui sont échelonnées le long de la frontière Algéro-Marocaine ont été ou vont être renforcées, La voie ferrée qui relie Oran à Tlemcen et à Duveyrier va transporter un certain nombre d'hommes et de munitions supplémentaires à Tlemcen, à Aïn-Sefra, à Duveyrier, pour empêcher les bandes Marocaines qui infestent la frontière de pénétrer en Algérie.

Le "Du Chayla," qui se trouve en ce moment à Oran, est en outre prêt à se rendre au premier signal à Tanger et à y débarquer un certain nombre d'hommes, soit que la vie ou les biens de nos nationaux puissent être en danger, soit qu'une autre nation débarque elle-même des troupes.

Enfin, des ordres ont été donnés ou vont être donnés pour que les navires disponibles de l'escadre de la Méditerranée se tiennent prêts à appareiller, le cas échéant, et à rallier soit les eaux d'Oran, soit celles de Tanger.

Ces mesures qui, comme nous le disons plus haut, sont de simples mesures de précaution, ne sauraient étonner qui que ce soit, et nous croyons savoir que le Foreign Office, dont notre correspondant de Londres nous transmettait hier l'opinion officielle, est le premier à les trouver toutes naturelles.

Les intérêts que la France a au Maroc sont indiscutés: ils ne sont pas seulement politiques, mais aussi commerciaux. Le tiers des exportations totales du Maroc viennent en France ou dans les Colonies Françaises: Marseille reçoit des peaux de chèvres, des cires, et des gommes; elle recevrait des huiles en grande quantité si le régime économique intelligent que nous devons au protectionnisme ne les frappait d'un droit d'entrée considérable; l'Algérie reçoit les tapis de Rabat, et de Casablanca les haïks et pantoufles, de Fez les mulets et chevaux. Les tapis de Rabat surtout y sont renommés pour la fixité de leurs couleurs; on en fabrique environ 4,000 par an, dont les trois quarts vont en Europe.

No. 13.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 3.)

(No. 3. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, January* 3, 1903.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram concerning ships of war, dated the 1st January.

(Secret.)

Señor Abarzuza, whom I saw yesterday afternoon and to whom I communicated the intentions and views of His Majesty's Government, informed me that he personally agreed to them and fully understood them. He did not, however, suggest that the vessel now at Tangier would be withdrawn, though he assured me that it was his desire to "act in concert" with us.

Upon my informing his Excellency that His Majesty's Government recognized that, owing to her possessions on the coast of Morocco, Spain enjoyed an exceptional position, he showed evident signs of pleasure, and expressed the hope that this meant that Spain was recognized by His Majesty's Government as possessing in Morocco a legitimate sphere of influence. After speaking of the geographical and historical connection between Spain and England, his Excellency said that though it was far from being the wish of Spaniards to embark upon any form of adventurous policy, yet they considered they could justly claim to be regarded as the possessors, in at least a part of Morocco, of a certain title to influence.

On this point, his Excellency pressed me to give him the views taken by His Majesty's Government. I replied that the words used by your Lordship applied, as I understood them, only to existing facts and to the exigencies which might arise from those facts, and that I was without information in regard to the view which His

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Majesty's Government might hold on the general question which his Excellency had mentioned. As the declared policy of His Majesty's Government was the maintenance of the *status quo*, I doubted whether they had ever given such a question their consideration. Señor Abarzuza, however, insisted requesting me to endeavour to clear up the position in this respect if I could possibly do so, and when I had ascertained how Spain really stood to let him know. His Excellency did not put forward any definite claims or views and I did not press him to do so, as I feared that if they were advanced they might prove embarrassing to His Majesty's Government.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs then proceeded to revert to the assurances he gave on a former occasion, saying that years of study and thought had convinced him that it was of vital importance to Spain to arrive at a thorough understanding with England, and he declared that if this were not the accepted policy of the Spanish Government, nothing would induce him to remain in office. He stated in the most explicit terms, when speaking of an alliance between France and Spain, that no alliance of any kind was in existence, and he added that there never would be one as long as he was in office. Señor Abarzuza even gave me a warning not to believe in the desire apparently held by France to maintain the *status quo* in the Moorish Kingdom. Various things which he had heard had left the impression on his mind that in this respect the French were going against their own inclinations, and that they really entertained very different hopes. My reply was to the effect that I had seen no sign of this state of things, and that the Foreign Office in France seemed to be as much averse from taking any imprudent action as we were ourselves.

I cannot say for certain what Señor Abarzuza really expects England to do in this matter, but it is my impression that he wishes us to take into due consideration and in good time the possibility of disturbances in Morocco, of a slaughter of Europeans there, or of a general break up of the State; and he desires us to think what will be the rôle in such a contingency we might be disposed to assign to Spain, whether the assent of France had been obtained or not. Upon my remarking that England, to the best of my knowledge, laid no claim to a predominant or exclusive influence in Morocco, but only claimed that her trade should have free access to the country and that her position in the Mediterranean should not be endangered through the use any foreign Power might make of Morocco, his Excellency made the suggestion that Spain, in such a case, by diminishing the risk of intrusion of other stronger Powers, might be of use to Great Britain. In the press I have seen a suggestion made that England and France should put forward Spain to take whatever action in Morocco may be found necessary, and that the expenses should be paid by the former Powers.

It is conceivably possible, having regard to the aspirations which are, undoubtedly, entertained by Spaniards for an empire in Africa, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs desires to make a similar suggestion, and it may also be possible that he wishes to suggest that England and Spain should conclude an alliance.

If your Lordship would instruct me as to the line of action I should pursue in the future I should be greatly obliged. I have tried so far to avoid doing anything which might appear to indicate a desire on my part to work against the interests of France. Ought I to adhere to this course and run the risk of discouraging any advances which may possibly be made to me, or should I endeavour to obtain from the Minister of Foreign Affairs a statement of his wishes and views? It may not be easy to combine the two things.

I think the sense of the country is against any form of alliance. From a military point of view Spain is, as far as I can judge, not at all in a fit condition to carry on military operations over the seas.

It is not possible for me to estimate with certainty how far the Minister for Foreign Affairs represents the views entertained by his Government. It is possible that, in order to be able to carry his policy, he is depending upon a firm offer from us. My personal belief is that he is earnest and sincere, but my acquaintance with him is not yet of an intimate character, and he might be thrown over by Señor Silvela. I have had no conversation on the subject of Morocco with Señor Silvela.

No. 14.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 3.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 3, 1903.

SOME Moors and Jews in Tangier have received letters from Fez which state that Muley Mohammed, the brother of the Sultan, had arrived at the capital and been officially received.

The supposition is that the Sultan took this measure to show the people of Fez that Muley Mohammed was not the Pretender, as had been rumoured in several quarters.

Neither the French Vice-Consul nor Mr. MacLeod have reported this event, nor have either M. Saint-René Taillandier or I received any later news from Fez than letters dated the 26th December.

Mr. Forde, His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Laraiche, reports that the Beni Hassan, a powerful tribe, whose district lies between his post and Fez, have declared for the Pretender and are robbing caravans.

Mr. Carleton, His Majesty's Consular Agent at Alcazar, reports that he has heard that the Charaga tribe have also joined the Pretender.

The district of this tribe lies to the north of Fez.

With reference to my telegram No. 3 of yesterday's date, the Portuguese cruiser "Donna Amelia" arrived at Tangier yesterday, but she has again left.

I have repeated this telegram to Sir M. Durand at Madrid.

No. 15.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 3.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 3, 1903.

THERE has been read publicly in the mosque here a letter from the Sultan stating that some rebellious tribes surprised the Shereefian troops at night and scattered them.

His Majesty stated that a fresh army was being prepared which would defeat the rebels and that he would be able soon to send his friends news which would be satisfactory to them.

No. 16.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 3, 1903.

THE Spanish Ambassador called here this afternoon, and we had some conversation in regard to the situation in Morocco, which his Excellency evidently regarded as extremely serious.

He expressed the earnest desire of the Spanish Government to act in concert with that of His Majesty, and he assured me that no efforts would be spared in order to avoid any action which might have the effect of precipitating a crisis in Moorish affairs. At the same time, Spain had important interests in Morocco, and had to take measures for the safety of the Spanish settlements.

I assured the Duc de Mandas that we thoroughly realized the position in which the Spanish Government stood towards Morocco, and that we reciprocated the feelings of the Spanish Government. I would keep him fully informed as to our views and intentions.

I took the opportunity of expressing the pleasure with which I had heard of the terms in which the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs had referred to this country in his recent conversation with your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 17.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 4.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 4, 1903.*

I HAVE just received letters from Fez dated the 29th December.

The arrival at the Court of the Sultan's brother, Muley Mohammed, as reported in my telegram to your Lordship No. 4 of yesterday's date, is confirmed; and it is said that this event has produced a good effect on the populace of Fez.

The city is orderly and tranquil. It does not appear that the Pretender has advanced nearer Fez, and there is a report that his followers have dispersed after quarrelling over the booty.

In other quarters it is reported that word has been sent to the tribes on the road to Mequinez that the Pretender is proceeding to that city.

I am of opinion that all reports as to his movements and plans should be received with great caution, as they can be but pure conjecture.

Kaïd Sir H. Maclean still considers the situation to be of a very critical nature, but he hopes and thinks that the Sultan will in the end overcome his difficulties.

His Majesty himself is sanguine and confident.

I have repeated this telegram to His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

No. 18.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 5, 1903.)

(No. 190.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 30, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit extracts from a letter from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, giving an interesting account of the recent defeat of the Sultan's troops. His report gives a deplorable picture of the condition of the Sultan's army, and augurs ill for the success of any future action against the forces of the Pretender. The latter appears to possess considerable skill as a leader, and it is evident he has his men well in hand.

Kaïd Maclean has explained to me the great difficulties he has recently met with in the way of bringing some order and discipline among that portion of the army which had been intrusted to his charge; and I am sure that had he been allowed a free hand he would have been able to organize a force of some value.

The manner in which the Sultan has received the news of the disaster to his troops is perplexing; and I am unable to understand His Majesty's attitude.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Extracts from a Letter from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, dated Fez, December 25, 1902.

THE following are the details of the defeat of the Sultan's troops:—

On Monday, the 22nd December, about 10 A.M., the adherents of Bu Hamara began to hover round the camp and the Sultan's Kaïds sent out their men, and there was desultory fighting all day. On Tuesday, the 23rd, before daybreak, the hostile tribes came down again and the same sort of fighting went on all day until about sunset, when the tribesmen retired and the troops returned to camp—men, horses thoroughly tired and in want of food. Soon after the troops had returned the camp was attacked vigorously by quite fresh men on three different sides, and, in consequence of His Majesty's troops and tribesmen not being able to see well, their fire was ineffective and the enemy came right on to the camp. The Rahamua people, on the Sultan's side, began to run away; most of the leaders followed, and soon there was a general flight. The whole camp fell into the hands of the enemy. Nothing was saved except the rifles of those men who succeeded in escaping, and it is surmised that all the men who were unable to get away have been killed. The Pretender captured three breech-loading Krupp mountain-guns, three old muzzle-loading guns,

one Maxim, and five Gardner guns, with their ammunition. Besides the guns he obtained all the tents, ammunition, a quantity of rifles, mules, and a good deal of money belonging to the Government and to the Kaïds.

I look upon this as a most serious defeat, and my men told me there was no order or discipline, that every one acted for themselves, and that most of the leaders ran away first. From all I hear there was no real fighting on the part of the Sultan's troops, and if they had stood their ground all would have been well. The enemy, on the other hand, fought well, only half coming on at a time, and although it is reported they lost a lot of men, they fought bravely. My men told me that all the enemy were armed with European rifles. A lot of the Sultan's tribesmen are still armed with native guns, and most of the soldiers have rifles made at the Italian factory here, which are dangerous to fire and perfectly useless.

My men told me that if the troops in camp had known how to shoot the enemy would not have been able to get near them; but that the shooting was disgraceful, and as soon as the enemy found this out they came straight on. I have been out frequently punishing tribes, and it is always the same. The contingent brought in by the Kaïds will listen to no one, and it is impossible to maintain order. I am rather anxious to see the effect this defeat will have on the men here in camp.

The Sultan told me the fight occurred about ten hours from here; also that he should do nothing at present, and wait until the winter is over, as the country round Taza is impossible in wet weather, and he could not run the chance of having his camp bogged when no supplies could reach them.

His Majesty said, although he was very sorry, it was nothing, and that every nation had reverses now and then.

I told the Sultan that I considered it very serious, and that he should at once prepare his army for all emergencies; that he should send mounted guards along the road and establish a strong camp on this side of the bridge, so that if the enemy thought of moving towards Fez, the Government would be warned and prepared to meet them. The Sultan said he would place the camp, but pooh-poohed the idea of the Pretender's followers thinking of coming here.

I received orders yesterday to tell the men that the Sultan had granted them 1 peseta a day pay and mounted men 2 pesetas. This pay is for the whole of the troops and tribesmen here. Goodness only knows where the money is to come from.

I was strongly advised not to offer to go with the late expedition, as I was assured it would do the Sultan harm sending me, so I did not offer to do so.

I do not think I am pessimistic, but I wish you were in a position to send troops here for the safe escort of Christians to the coast in case anything unforeseen occurred.

No. 19.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 5, 1903.)

(No. 191.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 30, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting a conversation which he had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding the question of the safety of Europeans in the capital and also on the general situation. I confess I should have felt easier in my mind had I heard that the ladies of the North African Mission were already on their way to the coast, as, though Fez itself may be more tranquil for the moment, still communications may be later interrupted. Nevertheless I feel confident that Mr. Macleod is fully alive to the importance of the question, and will act as the local circumstances may demand. He should receive to-day my instructions as to dispatching British subjects to Tangier.

I am surprised at the confidence the Minister for Foreign Affairs has in the immediate future, and I cannot but believe that this attitude is an assumed one. I concur with Mr. Macleod that his Excellency's assurances do not inspire full confidence, after the manner in which his anticipations have hitherto been falsified by subsequent events.

In a private letter Mr. Macleod states that he considers one of the most serious features to be the dearth of provisions in the city and the neighbourhood; and he adds

that "the Government appear blind to this circumstance and its gravity with a population by whom the Sultan and Government are generally not liked." He concludes by observing that "the people in the streets yesterday (the 24th instant) looked more ill-natured than I have seen them for many years."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 74.)

Sir, *Fez, December* 25, 1902.

I BEG to inclose a copy of my despatch No. 73 of yesterday afternoon.

I called upon Sid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman early in the evening, and said that, being the senior of the Consular Body here, I would be glad to learn, for the information of my colleagues as well as myself, whether he considered there was any insecurity for Europeans here just now.

If he considered there was any need for special measures of precaution, or even for our departure, we would, I assured the Vizier, be most happy to assist the Moorish Government in carrying them out.

Meanwhile, however, we realized the gravity attending a decision on such a matter, as, for instance, of Europeans (except those in the Sultan's service) leaving Fez, by reason of the effect of such a step on the public mind here and abroad, and we felt that it was for the Moorish Government to advise us in the matter, as, of course, they were in all circumstances responsible for what might happen.

The Vizier answered that he was much obliged for what I had said, and I could inform my colleagues that, in the meantime at least, there was nothing to fear as regards Europeans, and we might rely upon the Moorish Government letting us know at once if any special precautions became advisable.

I thanked the Vizier for this assurance, and then said that, if it were not inconvenient for him to speak on the subject, I would be glad to learn, for your information, and, if he thought fit, for that of my colleagues, what the Moorish Government meant to do in view of the situation generally. I added that, naturally, it would lessen the anxiety in our respective countries regarding the events here if it could be made clear that the Moorish Government were taking active steps towards bringing the present state of things to a conclusion.

The Vizier answered that he had no objection to stating frankly both their views on the situation and the Government's intentions.

They fully recognized the increased seriousness of the Bu Hamara affair, and were not unmindful of the discontent in Fez itself, caused by the present very high prices of food.

They had therefore resolved to issue full allowance of food and forage to the troops hereabouts, to mend the tents, refit men, horses, and equipment generally with speed.

The camps would be kept pitched on each side of Fez while this was in progress. They hoped to have them ready to take the field in a few days, after the ensuing Moslem Feast, and then, if the weather permitted of operations in such a country of mud as the Haragua-Taza district, to punish those tribes thoroughly. In the meantime they had no reason to expect that Bu Hamara could take the offensive, as the tribes who supported him never left their own lands, and if they did were much easier to deal with.

The Sultan himself would, however, remain at Fez.

I was not quite satisfied by the Vizier's reply (nor am I so even now), for hitherto every one of his forecasts on the Taza affairs has been falsified by the event, and he did not seem to be taking sufficient account of Bu Hamara's skill and energy of character.

However, I only thanked the Vizier for his reply, and took my leave.

I informed my colleagues of what had passed, and we agreed to defer taking any steps meanwhile in view of what the Vizier had said and also of the excitement in the city having subsided very much since the morning.

To-day there is no certain news to recount. It is rumoured, however, that Bu Hamara is just now near Hojra Kabela with a small following, and has written

inviting the Ulad El Hadj tribe (*i.e.*, the tribe next to Fez on the east) to join him and allow him and his following to pass freely to Fez.

Herewith I inclose a photo map* indicating as nearly as I can the position at time of writing.

My assistant, Mr. Hastings, and I were at Court as usual yesterday afternoon. Neither the Sultan nor the Minister of War (in appearance at any rate) seemed very much affected by the news of the morning. No remarks whatever were made by anyone on the subject.

My messenger sent recently to Taza has returned, but was unable to proceed further than Bu Hamara's camp, of which and of Bu Hamara himself—whom he professes to have conversed with—he gives me many details, as also of the disaster to Amrani's camp. None of the details, however, contain anything new or not already reported, so I defer for the day relating them in full.

I have dispatched the messenger again to Ulad El Hadj and Harayna, where, as a Shereef possessing property and friends in the district, he is perfectly safe, and likely to obtain early news of Bu Hamara.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

P.S.—The English ladies of the North African Mission stayed here last night, but have returned to their homes, the city being so much quieter.

J. M. M.

No. 20.

Sir M. Gosselin to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 5, 1903.)

(No. 90. Africa.)

My Lord, *Lisbon, December* 31, 1902.

ON calling at the Foreign Office yesterday I found Senhor Mattoso Santos much pre-occupied about the state of affairs in Morocco.

His Excellency said that the news received here, not only from the Portuguese Representative at Tangier, but from other quarters, led him to believe that the lives of Europeans in the coast towns (except Tangier) and in the interior were imperilled, and he was anxious to know what steps His Majesty's Government contemplate taking to avert the threatened danger. He had telegraphed some days ago to the Portuguese Legation in London, but had not yet received an answer.

Senhor Mattoso Santos begged me to assure your Lordship that the Portuguese Government were most anxious to follow the line of action adopted by His Majesty's Government in this matter, but they could not forget that many natives of the Algarves were established across the Strait, and that it was the duty of the Government to afford them protection if needed.

The "Dona Amelia" is ready to start at a moment's notice, and his Excellency has asked the Minister of the Marine to hold three or more ships in readiness should their presence in Moorish waters be deemed necessary.

He added that the "Dom Carlos" is expected to arrive here in two or three days' time from Rio, and could proceed at once to Tangier.

His Excellency begged me to inquire whether His Majesty's Government propose to send any ships to Moorish waters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

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* Not printed.

No. 21.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 5.)

(No. 9.)

My Lord, *Paris, January* 3, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Report by Colonel Stuart-Wortley, Military Attaché to this Embassy, concerning the movements and dispositions of French troops contiguous to the frontier of Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Colonel Wortley to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 1.)

Sir, *Paris, January* 3, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, the following movements and dispositions of troops on the Algerian-Morocco frontier :—

The 5th Company of the 2nd Battalion 2nd Zouaves at Oran to Sebdon.

Three companies of the 2nd Algerian Tirailleurs from Tlemçen to Lalla-Marnia.

The 1st Battalion of the 2nd Algerian Tirailleurs from Monstaganem to Tlemçen.

The troops are echeloned along the frontier as follows :—

At Nemours and Lalla-Marnia, 1st Battalion 2nd Zouaves and three companies 2nd Tirailleurs.

At Tlemçen, the 1st and 4th Battalions of the 2nd Tirailleurs and the 2nd Chasseurs d'Afrique.

At Sidi-bel-Abbès, the 1st Foreign Regiment and the 2nd Spahis.

At Sebdon and El Aricha, the 3rd Battalion and one company 2nd Zouaves.

At Saïda, the 2nd Foreign Regiment.

At Kreider, the 1st Battalion Light Infantry.

At Mécheria, the 3rd Company Fusiliers (discipline).

In the extreme south—

At Ain Sefra and Beni-Oussif, four companies 2nd Tirailleurs.

At Deweyrier, the discipline section of the 2nd Tirailleurs.

At Beni-Abbès, south of Igli, two companies 2nd Tirailleurs.

In support of the above troops, the following are thus disposed of :—

At Oran, three companies 2nd Zouaves and 1st Battalion 2nd Tirailleurs.

At Relizane, Arzew, and Mascara, one battalion 2nd Tirailleurs.

At Mascara, 6th Chasseurs d'Afrique.

At Oran, three divisional batteries.

The above-mentioned troops are independent of the division quartered at Oran.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. STUART-WORTLEY, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 22.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 5.)

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, January* 4, 1903.

WITH reference to my Secret telegram No. 3 of the 3rd January :

I have been told by an Englishman who resides here, and upon whom I can rely, that Señor Abarzuza is incapable of taking any line of action of a strong and independent character, but that he is thoroughly trustworthy. He assures me that I may regard any communication of importance which the Minister for Foreign Affairs may make to me as coming from the Prime Minister. This view is probably correct, as my informant has known both of them for many years.

It is expected that the new Ambassador of the French Republic will arrive within a week.

No. 23.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 5.)

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 5, 1903.

I AM in receipt of some letters from Fez dated the 31st December. There appears to be a distinct improvement in the situation. In order to dispose of the idea that the Sultan's brother is the Pretender, the Moorish Government are inducing leaders of neighbouring tribes to come in to Fez to see him. It is reported that the Pretender is at Taza.

The country in the south of Morocco is quiet and it appears to be uninfluenced by the news of the defeat.

The Vice-Consul at Tetuan, on the other hand, reports that nearly all the Riff tribe have espoused the Pretender's cause; this report, however, lacks confirmation.

I think it would be unwise to consider the whole affair practically over, or to be too sanguine, although this is what the Moorish Government wishes to be believed.

No 24.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 5.)

(No. 8. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 5, 1903.

THE following is most confidential.

I have received news from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean that the Sultan has assured him that he has received information from a source which he considers to be thoroughly trustworthy, that the French sent a letter to the Pretender in which they offer him assistance and money to dethrone His Majesty and to place any Shereef he might select on the Throne of Morocco.

His Majesty is persuaded that the French are at the bottom of the whole matter.

This news seems to me to be most improbable, and I should think that the Sultan has been incorrectly informed.

His Majesty says that he fears that if he attacks the Pretender the tribes will combine; he has, therefore, decided not to do so.

The Sultan declares that he hopes to check the movement in favour of the Pretender by diplomacy, to punish the rebels and capture their leader.

Sir H. Maclean has sent me an open letter to Messrs. Forwood, in which he asks for a loan of 300,000*l.*, repayable by bills on the Customs in three years.

I have sent on the letter after sealing it up, but I am unwilling to take any responsibility in the matter, nor do I wish to be considered as recommending the proposal in any way.

It was merely sent to me open for my information.

No. 25.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January* 5, 1903.

YOUR Excellency's telegram No. 3, Secret, of the 3rd instant.

So far as it is possible for us to judge, it is the sincere wish of the French Government that any disturbance of the *status quo* in Morocco should be avoided, and suggestions by other Powers as to arrangements to be made in the event of such a disturbance are, therefore, to be deprecated.

In these circumstances it appears to me that you would do better not to seek an explanation of the ulterior objects which the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs may have in mind.

His Majesty's Government fully realize that in the event of such a catastrophe as Señor Abarzuza apparently anticipates, Spain would have a right to a voice as to any arrangements which it might, in that case, be found necessary to conclude.

It does not seem to us that a discussion as to these contingencies would, at the present moment, have useful results; but you can inform his Excellency that he would find us ready at the proper time to exchange ideas with him confidentially on the subject.

No. 26.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 6.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 6, 1903.

THE Spanish cruiser "Infanta Isabel" left Tangier in the afternoon yesterday the 5th January.

(Repeated to Sir M. Durand.)

No. 27.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 7.)

(No. 1.)
Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, January* 7, 1903.

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 519 of the 31st December, 1902: Morocco.

M. Delcassé has announced that he is too unwell to hold his usual reception to-day; his Excellency has ever since the 1st January been confined to his house by illness.

The situation in Morocco does not, I think, excite much public interest in France at this moment; the French Government, however, is quietly taking precautions with a view to preventing the fanatical movement from spreading to Algeria.

I exchanged a very few words on the subject with my Italian colleague on the 1st instant. Count Tornielli then certainly seemed to imply, though he did not state categorically, that Italy was disinterested in Morocco.

No. 28.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 8, 1903.)

(No. 192.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 31, 1902.

REPORTS were being circulated in Tangier to-day that the Beni Ider tribe intended to resume hostilities against the Governor of Tetuan immediately after to-morrow's feast, which terminates the Ramadan fast. As information which I had previously received foreshadowed further difficulties near Tetuan, I thought the town reports had very likely some foundation.

I called upon my Spanish colleague and inquired of him whether he had received any recent news from Tetuan, but he had heard nothing further than the reports which were current. He had, he told me, sent the First Interpreter to Hadj Mohammed Torres to gather information, and said he would communicate to me the reply he might receive.

The First Interpreter returned at that moment and said that Hadj Mohammed Torres had informed him, confidentially, that, in view of the grave difficulties in which the Moorish Government at present found themselves, he had yesterday written to the Governor of Tetuan to concede all the demands of the Beni Ider. These demands have chiefly reference, I believe, to the liberation of some of their fellow tribesmen who are in prison.

Hadj Mohammed Torres regretted that this concession had to be made, but the present circumstances demanded it. I trust that now the danger of disturbance near Tetuan will be removed for the present, though the success of the Beni Ider tribesmen will, possibly, lead to a general gaol delivery at Tangier and Tetuan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 29.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 8.)

(No. 10. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 8, 1903.

THE following is confidential.

Besides making application to Messrs. Forwood His Shereefian Majesty has applied to Messrs. Moses Pariente, the Legation bankers, to state the terms upon which they would be willing to advance to the Moorish Government the sum of 300,000*l.*, capital repayable in three years, on the security of bills on the customs.

Messrs. Pariente inquired if I considered that His Majesty's Government would be willing to support the Moorish Government's request, as without that they are certain that their friends in England would be unwilling, especially under the present circumstances, to advance the money to the Shereefian Government.

I replied that His Majesty's Government would not, in my opinion, be at all disposed to take any responsibility in the matter whatever.

Does your Lordship concur in this opinion?

I understand that there are already many bills outstanding on the customs.

I hear from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, that he has applied to Messrs. Coutts and Co., for a loan of 50,000*l.* on the securities deposited at their bank by the Sultan.

No. 30.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January* 8, 1903.

I FULLY approve your reply to the Legation bankers, in regard to the proposed loan as reported in your telegram No. 10 of the 8th instant, to the effect that His Majesty's Government were unable to undertake any responsibility in the matter.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co., bankers, inform me that the inquiry as to terms has been communicated by telegraph to them, and that they propose to reply that before any negotiations can be entered upon, the Moorish customs would have to be placed under European control.

I have expressed my concurrence in the terms of this reply.

No. 31.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 9.)

(No. 11. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 9, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 10 of yesterday's date.

Messrs. Pariente have received a telegram from their London connections stating that before negotiating it would be necessary to place the customs under control of the Powers.

Messrs. Pariente consider that the Sultan would not accept this control; but they think that he might agree to the appointment of an Agent of the Contractors who should check the Tangier customs revenues, and also that a monthly statement of the amount of customs duties received at the ports should be furnished to the British Consular Representatives at ports other than Tangier.

It would be necessary that His Shereefian Majesty should issue a Firman agreeing to the above conditions and engaging to pay out of Tangier customs revenues the monthly interest, and also to repay the capital out of general customs revenues in three years.

The Legation bankers are afraid that if European control of the customs be insisted on, His Majesty will offer the loan to French or other foreigners who would probably grant it on easier conditions and, perhaps, without any customs control at all.

Messrs. Parieuete are telegraphing in the above sense to their friends in London.

No. 32.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 9.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 9, 1903.

ACCORDING to letters from Fez received to-day dated the 5th instant, information has been received by Mr. MacLeod from the French Vice-Consul, that the Pretender is making his preparations for an advance on the capital.

He is said to be negotiating with an intervening tribe for supplies and for a free passage through their district.

His Majesty's Vice-Consul reports, further, that he has been informed that letters have been sent by the Sultan to the Berber tribes in Tafilelt and other districts, calling upon them to join His Majesty with as many men as they can collect in the shortest possible time.

Mr. MacLeod is sending the British women and children now in Fez to Tangier, in view of the probability of hostilities being resumed.

I think this step is a wise precaution and it has received the approval of Ben Sliman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and of His Majesty the Sultan.

No. 33.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 10.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 2, 1903.

AFTER considerable delay, owing to the state of the roads, letters arrived yesterday evening from Fez, dated the 26th ultimo. I merely received a short note from His Majesty's Vice-Consul, stating that nothing fresh had occurred since he had written on the previous day.

I called upon the French Minister and inquired of him whether he had received any news, and he was good enough to read to me portions of a despatch which had reached him from the French Vice-Consul, M. Gaillard.

The latter stated that the Moorish Government were making certain preparations in the way of manning some of the forts, but apparently neglected the all-important question of collecting stores and provisions for the town. Prices, M. Gaillard observed, were already trebled, and this fact was causing much irritation among the lower classes. The population, however, generally seem to be calm and to have recovered from the panic which had been caused when the news of the defeat had first arrived.

M. Gaillard estimated that the Sultan had at his disposal a force of some 15,000 men. I should think that their *morale*, after the experience of the recent fight, could not be absolutely depended upon.

M. Gaillard remarked that the fugitives who had escaped from the rout of the 23rd ultimo were huddled together in an encampment, and were being much neglected both in regard to proper shelter and supply of food. This treatment, he considered, was not very encouraging for the others.

M. Gaillard understood that about 9,000 men had been engaged on the Government side in the recent fight: and that more than half of these had been killed or captured. Many of the latter had made their submission to the Pretender and had joined his forces. M. Gaillard calculated that the Pretender had with him some 15,000 men: but he observed that many of these would not leave their villages and flocks when the Pretender advanced further from his present base. He also considered that the Pretender would have much difficulty in provisioning his forces. He added that he had heard that the Pretender had sent letters to all the neighbouring tribes calling

upon them to espouse his cause, and that he was awaiting the replies to his invitations.

It was, M. Gaillard continued, rumoured that the Pretender proposed to move towards Mequinez and get into touch with the Geruan and Zemmour tribes, who would no doubt gladly welcome him. These were the tribes against whom the Sultan recently was operating with dubious success.

The general situation, to judge from the report of M. Gaillard, remained much in the same condition as before; but it was hardly to be expected that any notable development would take place practically within only forty-eight hours after the defeat.

I think one enters upon pure conjecture when the probable plans and indeed resources of the Pretender are discussed, and in connection with these questions I would point out that a serious difficulty may eventually arise. Should the Pretender succeed in isolating Fez, a curtain will practically fall between him and Tangier, and we shall be dependent on unreliable reports as to what he is accomplishing behind this screen. It will be a matter of extreme difficulty to obtain any trustworthy information of his movements and intentions; and we shall be unaware as to the points at which he may strike. It is in view of this possible contingency that I am most anxious to assemble all British subjects in the coast towns without delay. Here protection can be accorded to them, and even in cases of urgent need refuge provided for them on board the men-of-war.

There are some ports with which communication from the sea at this season of the year is exceedingly difficult, and occasionally suspended for some days. I allude to Laraiche, Rabat, and Saffi, and I am authorizing the Consular officers at these ports, should they see any urgent necessity, to remove British residents to other ports with which communication is easier and more certain.

There is another point in regard to which I am a little uneasy, and that is the difficulty of communication between the coast and Tangier during the winter months.

It would not be advisable at this juncture to place men-of-war on the coast, and it is possible that, were any coast town threatened, some days might elapse before the news reached me and enabled me to communicate with the Admiral at Gibraltar. This is a question in regard to which some risk must, in the circumstances, be incurred.

In laying the above considerations before your Lordship, I do not wish it to be understood that I consider that the cause of the Sultan is hopelessly lost, or that the whole population will suddenly rise and rush to exterminate the Christians. But I do think that it would be imprudent not to take into account every possible eventuality, and prepare for it to the best of my ability so far as British subjects are concerned. We have a situation before us which is unprecedented in this land of surprises, and we are dealing with forces and passions of which we have but a very superficial knowledge.

The materials on which a sound judgment can be formed are uncertain and scanty; and, though I trust the Sultan will be able successfully to emerge from his present grave difficulties, it is, I think, a matter of common prudence to be prepared for every possible contingency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 34.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 10.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 3, 1903.

LETTERS have been received here, both by Moors and by Jews, from their friends in Fez, reporting the arrival there of Muley Mohammed, the brother of the Sultan, who had been kept under surveillance at Mequinez. The letters state that Muley Mohammed was received with great ceremony; and it is supposed that the object of the Sultan in sending for him was to prove to the populace, by ocular demonstration, that he was not the Pretender as had been supposed in various quarters.

The latest news which both the French Minister and myself have received

from Fez is dated the 26th ultimo, and we are a little perplexed why neither of the Consuls, nor I may add Sir H. Maclean, has reported this event. Still, presumably it must be true, as a fact of that character could hardly have been imagined.

Mr. Carleton, the Consular Agent at Alcazar, in a letter dated the 29th December, states that the news he received from Fez is still of "an alarming character," and that the Cheraga tribe to the north of Fez have espoused the cause of the Pretender. This tribe, I had previously heard, had refused to furnish any contingent to the Sultan's troops, and an expedition was being dispatched against them when the disaster of the 23rd December necessitated the concentration of all forces at Fez.

Mr. Vice-Consul Forde reports from Larache, under date of the 29th ultimo, that the powerful tribe of Beni Hassan had declared for the Pretender, and had plundered two or three caravans which were on their way to Fez. This tribe is always turbulent, but of late had been making common cause with the Sultan against the Zemmour tribes near Mequinez. Doubtless their present action is to be attributed more to a desire to plunder than to any special affection for the cause of the Pretender.

One noteworthy feature, and which I omitted to mention in my previous despatch, is the discipline and cohesion which the Pretender has apparently established among his adherents. It is rare in Moorish history for tribes to work together and to obey one will, and in this instance, the religious feeling is probably the cementing material. I do not think, at least as far as one can judge from what has recently passed, that the Pretender will have much difficulty in inducing his followers to advance with him. In ordinary circumstances and for ordinary objects tribes do not like to quit their homesteads and flocks, but it is, I think, evident that the Pretender has succeeded in overcoming their scruples in this respect.

I also omitted to state that the French Vice-Consul estimated that the forces which the Sultan had at his disposal at Fez amounted to some 15,000 men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 35

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 10.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 4,* 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two despatches which I received this morning from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, and which have been much delayed on the road owing to heavy rains.

The Sultan acted wisely in inviting his brother Muley Mohammed to Fez, and the advent of his Highness appears to have made a good impression on the populace.

All reports in regard to the projects and movements of the pretender should be received with great caution, as hitherto such rumours have not been borne out by subsequent events.

I am inclined to doubt that the Basha Es-Shirgui had arrived at an amicable arrangement with the Cheraga tribe. Information of a little later date which I have received from other sources would point to a different conclusion. Mr. Macleod's despatch was also written before the news which I have received both from Laraiche and Alcazar that the Beni Hassan tribe had risen in favour of the Pretender, and rendered the caravan roads to Fez unsafe.

I would beg leave to draw attention to the statement in Mr. Macleod's despatch No. 76, that Kaïd Omar El Yusi had been unable to continue his advance on Taza.

I should have been glad to have heard that the European ladies at Fez were on their road to Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 35.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 75.)
Sir, *Fez, December* 28, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch No. 74 of the 25th instant.

Since then the Moorish Government has put about 500 riflemen in the forts north and south of the city—mostly mountaineers living in Fez—and has placed a series of small camps on the heights to the north and north-east of the city, the main body of the army remaining in the south.

Yesterday his Highness Muley Mohammed (the Sultan's elder brother) arrived here under escort from Mequinez, and has been allotted quarters at the Palace.

As he came very publicly and was seen by many people, his arrival has had an excellent effect in silencing the most ignorant classes, who were often heard wondering whether the Pretender might not be really Muley Mohammed.

From Taza district I have no reliable sifted news. According to reports of fugitives from the recent fight, who still continue to come in, the Pretender's men had quarrelled over their loot and dispersed, but it was thought they might be reunited before the ensuing feast. Bu Hamara himself is said to be now in Taza.

I am sorry still to be unable to say with certainty who Bu Hamara really is. The Moorish authorities affirm positively that he is one Jellali-ben-Hamed, el-Yusfi, of Zarhou, and no other, whereas by all other of my informants (two of whom profess to have seen, and one to have actually conversed with Bu Hamara) I am told that the man the Moorish authorities indicate is only Bu Hamara's Secretary.

The womenkind of several leaders of the routed camp were brought in yesterday, Haiayna people having procured restitution of them.

In the city itself everything continues quiet.

So far as I have been able to learn, none of the leaders or subordinates of the force defeated in Tsul have been punished, or even tried, for their cowardice on that occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 35.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 76.)
Sir, *Fez, December* 28, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a tissue copy of my despatch No. 75 of this afternoon.

The Sultan's elder brother, Muley Mohammed, publicly visited Mulai Dris' and some other Fez saints' tombs to-day, in such a manner as to be seen by as many people as possible.

Kaïd Omar-el Yusi's column reached Fez this evening, and camped close to the east side of the city.

His men report that they had reached Azzaba, in Beni Yezrah, on their way from Sefroo to Taza, when the Beni Warain, alarmed by Kaïd Omar's approach (as he is an old enemy of theirs), attacked the Beni Yezrah, and threatened them with a devastation of their lands if Kaïd Omar and his following did not retire.

In view of this (and having, probably, heard of the scattering of the Amrani's forces in Tsul), Kaïd Omar therefore marched to Fez.

I have no private information to-day from Taza district, but both at the Court and in the city it is reported that Buhamara has retired into the Tsul mountains, after dividing the loot from the Amrani's camp. According to one report, Buhamara burned the poorest of the tents, distributed the good ones and their contents, destroyed the carriages of fourteen small cannons, and left the cannons themselves on the ground, taking with him only the two machine-guns, which were with the Amrani's force.

The Cheraga people have settled down amicably with the Basha Es-Shirgui, and he has now returned to Fez with his levies for the campaign.

In the city itself, everything remains quiet and orderly.

At Mequinez the Geruan appear to have settled down quietly, and there have been no fresh reports of highway robberies in their parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

P.S.—The roads from Fez to El Ksar, to Laraiche, to Rabat, strictly speaking, are open to traffic.

Nevertheless, in view of the general excitement obtaining in all this district at present, I would submit for your consideration whether it would not be well to advise foreigners to avoid—unless for urgent cause—visiting this neighbourhood just now.

J. M. M.

P.S. 2.—I inclose a rough photo-map,* showing the positions of the various camps round the city at time of writing. I hope to send a better copy in a day or to, when I will have obtained a clearer negative.

J. M. M.

No. 36.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 10.)

(No. 4.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 4, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith some extracts from a private letter which I have received from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, and which gives some particulars which are not mentioned in Mr. Macleod's despatches, of which I forward copies in my immediately preceding despatch.

It is satisfactory to hear that the Sultan shows a brave front in his present difficulties; but I sincerely trust that the new force which His Majesty is preparing will be well equipped, sufficiently numerous, and able to give a better account of themselves than was the case with that under Muley Amrani.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Kaïd Sir H. Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Fez, December* 28, 1902.

I TOLD the Sultan and Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman all you said in your letter about the Pretender, and I added that I was sure you would be much distressed to hear that the Sultan's troops had been defeated, and that you would consider it most serious.

[N.B.—This letter of mine was dated the 22nd December, in which I said that I was distressed at the very easy way the Court appeared to treat the Pretender question, and that I feared that if they did not regard it seriously and in consequence take serious action, there would be a disaster.—A. NICOLSON.]

The Sultan seemed perfectly happy, and told me the man was nobody; that he had found this out for a positive fact, and that in time his followers would know it and see how they had been duped. The Sultan said that his Government were preparing a strong force to punish the tribes and to reoccupy Taza. After the Sultan's troops ran away, His Majesty said the Pretender's followers quarrelled over the loot, and that a great many of them dispersed. I warned the Sultan not to take any notice of this story, as, although I believed they had dispersed, it would only be for a short time, and as these men now know they are fighting for their lives, they are bound to hold together.

The report in the town to-day is that the Pretender has sent word to the tribes on the road between Taza and Mequinez to clear out, as he is going to take his camp to

* Not reproduced.

Mequinez, and he is afraid his followers may rob them. The Pretender has sent back the women the Kaïds left in the camp. Mulay Amrani told me that the Pretender's men were well handled, and fought in the way he had seen me instruct the soldiers. Only a few men came into action at a time, and every hour these men were relieved.

He could not make the tribes with him listen to orders, and in consequence he was helpless. He added that not more than a third of his men would fight, and the rest would do nothing, and were the first to run away.

I think the situation very critical. At the same time I think and hope that the Sultan will pull through all right. Letters have been written to the tribes in the south.

The Pretender tells his men that as soon as he establishes himself he is going to fight the French and drive all Christians out of the country. I am told this statement is most popular.

No. 37.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 10.)

(No. 17. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, January* 9, 1903.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 519, Confidential, of the 31st December last, in which you have been so good as to recount to me the conversation which you had had that day with the French Ambassador upon the situation in Morocco.

I have already, by telegraph, informed your Lordship that M. Delcassé has been too unwell to receive the members of the Diplomatic Body since New Year's Day. I have, consequently, no further information of the official views of the French Government, nor of the estimate formed on the spot by their Representative at Tangier, as to the progress of the insurrection against the Sultan. The news received, and the comments made by the Paris press, are rather optimistic than otherwise; but as yet the public in France does not appear to have excited itself upon the question.

I am very grateful to your Lordship for giving me in such detail the record of what passed between yourself and M. Cambon; and I have studied with much interest the descrepancy pointed out in your despatch between his language on the last day of the year, and that held by him on the same subject on the 6th August last. In regard to this point, I venture, though with some hesitation, to recur to an opinion which I have before now betrayed to your Lordship as to the extent to which M. Cambon's ardent interest in the "aggressive" element, which he would undoubtedly like to characterize the foreign policy of France, leads him, not rarely, to accentuate with an interpretation, more in consonance with his own views than his chief's, the instructions which he may have received from M. Delcassé. In his conversation with your Lordship, on the 6th August, he refers directly to M. Delcassé as having used the words "into liquidation" in speaking of a contingency in Morocco by no means so remote as to be neglected. When I subsequently adverted to this conversation during an interview with M. Delcassé, his Excellency assumed an air of innocence, and affected complete ignorance of the subject. I must add that upon two or three occasions in former years M. Delcassé, whenever I happened to mention Morocco, invariably gave me to understand that he looked upon it as a question to be by no means precipitately meddled with.

I have no reason to doubt that, at this moment, as on previous occasions, M. Delcassé realizes the very formidable dimensions which the "liquidation" spoken of by M. Cambon would assume if France took any hasty or premature steps to bring it about. But it does not seem to me improbable that the echoes of M. Cambon's language have, as I ventured at the time to suggest to your Lordship, penetrated into quarters where they could not fail to inspire apprehension. I am not, therefore, surprised to find Sir Mortimer Durand confronted by reports, repeated to him by the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs (*vide* his telegram to your Lordship No. 3, Secret, of the 3rd instant), that the French were acting against their own wishes in declaring their desire to maintain the *status quo* in Morocco. However that may be, I am glad to believe that, from one cause or another, France is not likely under the existing Government to engage in any rash adventure; and that, happily, she is hardly in a position at this moment to take any risks. I was well satisfied to find yesterday,

in the course of a long conversation with my Austro-Hungarian colleague, that he had exactly the same opinion as to the intensely pacific sentiments which animate the present Ministry, for whom, however, on matters of domestic policy and administration, he entertains the greatest antipathy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 38.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 10.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 10, 1903.

ACCORDING to a despatch dated the 6th January, received from Mr. MacLeod at Fez, which has just arrived, Bu Hamara is showing signs of renewed activity, and seems to be preparing for an advance.

Mr. MacLeod also informs me that one of His Majesty's uncles is proceeding to the Riff country to endeavour to raise the inhabitants to act against the Pretender.

It is, however, stated in other quarters that they have given their adhesion to Bu Hamara.

The foreign Consular Representatives at Fez are recommending Europeans to depart for the coast. M. Gaillard, the French Vice-Consul at Fez, has written, requesting the new French Military Mission, which, however, left here on the 7th January, not to proceed to Fez.

The women and children who are British subjects have started on the 8th January for Tangier.

No. 39.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 10.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 10, 1903.

I AM informed by the French Minister that he has sent a special courier to request his Military Mission to wait on the way, and not to proceed to Fez till they hear from him again.

M. Saint-René Taillandier has news that the Pretender shows every intention of advancing, and is at a place about twenty miles from Fez, and that, becoming jealous of his brother, the Sultan is having him closely guarded. He adds that, according to reports from French Vice-Consul, the Moorish Ministers are in constant conference, and uneasy.

My news is not so gloomy as the above, but fresh developments may be expected shortly. Couriers will probably be delayed as the weather is threatening.

No. 40.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 11.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 11, 1903.

M. SAINT-RENÉ TAILLANDIER, the French Minister here, has informed me that a special courier has just arrived from M. Gaillard, French Vice-Consul at Fez, bringing a despatch in which he reports that Bu Hamara has advanced with a large force, and is within four hours' march of the city; that the troops cannot be relied on; that the scarcity of food has produced great discontent; and that there are indications that flight is contemplated by the Sultan.

The last letters which I have received from Fez are dated the 7th January, which is the same date as the despatch received by M. Saint-René Taillandier.

Mr. MacLeod, on the contrary, says merely that the Sultan has prepared an expedition against the Pretender, which was about to start from Fez—and nothing further.

As it is probable that alarming reports will be spread I communicate the above intelligence.

There are no means at my command by which I can verify either report.

No. 41.

Sir M. Gosselin to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 12.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Lisbon, January* 2, 1903.

SENHOR MATTOSO SANTOS called at the Legation this afternoon to wish me a happy New Year.

I took the opportunity of reading to his Excellency your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday evening, which explain the views of the Governments of His Majesty and of the French Republic as to the existing crisis in Morocco.

His Excellency begged me to express to your Lordship his grateful thanks for this communication, and reiterated the statement made to me on the 31st ultimo, that the Portuguese Government are most anxious to follow the line of action adopted by His Majesty's Government with regard to Morocco, "as well as in all other matters;" but the cruiser "Dona Amelia" had already started yesterday for Tangier, and by this time must have arrived at her destination. His Excellency, who seemed somewhat taken a-back on learning that neither the English nor French Governments intended, for the moment, to send ships to Moorish waters, asked me to explain to your Lordship that the voyage from Lisbon to Tangier takes thirty hours, and that the Portuguese Government consider it necessary to have a man-of-war, at all events, in the immediate neighbourhood of Morocco, in case of a possible outbreak of fanaticism anywhere in the coast towns. The Commander of the "Dona Amelia" had been instructed to report himself to the Portuguese Minister on arriving at Tangier, and should the cruiser not be wanted there, she was to proceed at once to Gibraltar, there to await further developments, and follow the line of action adopted by the British squadron; the "Alfonso d'Albuquerque," a serviceable transport, is held in readiness to start for Morocco at a moment's notice, and the "Dom Carlos" has already reached Lisbon from Rio, and is being overhauled with all possible dispatch, in case her services should be required at Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 42.

Consul-General Hay Newton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 12.)

(No. 1. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Algiers, January* 7, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that an officer of the 5th Regiment of Chasseurs d'Afrique, quartered in Algiers, informed me last night, incidentally, that his regiment was prepared to start at a moment's notice for Morocco.

Whether this applies to the rest of the troops in this department I have been as yet unable to ascertain. I should imagine, however, that these are only precautionary measures, the principal object being to strengthen, if necessary, the force already collected on the frontier in the possible event of the rising in Morocco having a successful issue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HAY NEWTON.

No. 43.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 12.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 12, 1903.

BARON VON MENTZINGEN informs me that he has received a despatch dated the 8th January from the Acting German Vice-Consul at Fez, forwarding a *procès-verbal* drawn up and signed by the British, French, and German Vice-Consuls, stating that they were of opinion that it was now necessary for all Europeans to leave Fez, including themselves.

The German said it was his intention to leave the capital on the 10th instant. No news of the above nature has reached me from Mr. MacLeod as yet.

I had instructed him not to leave his post unless it was absolutely essential, and I left him to judge when it should be necessary for him to quit the capital.

It appears that the German Acting Vice-Consul considers that the Sultan and his Government were on the point of abandoning the capital.

No. 44.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 12.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 12, 1903.

MY immediately preceding telegram of this morning's date.

The *procès-verbal* mentioned by the German Minister has just been received by me from Mr. MacLeod at Fez. He does not himself intend to quit the capital until he receives a communication from me. I shall repeat the instructions stated in my telegram of this morning.

His Majesty's Vice-Consul does not allude to any proposed departure from Fez of the Sultan or the Makhzen, and I see nothing of sufficient immediate importance in the report to necessitate Mr. MacLeod's leaving Fez.

No. 45.

Sir M. Gosselin to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 12.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Lisbon, January* 12, 1903.

MOROCCO. A telegram, stating that battle is thought imminent was received from Tangier yesterday by Minister for Foreign Affairs. It is expected that French Mission will return to Tangier. Benyder Kabyles menace Tetuan. The authorities there have asked for 500 rifles and artillery, but only fifty rifles and four guns are available. A Moorish emissary from Tetuan to confer with Hadj Mohammed Torres was expected to reach Tangier yesterday.

Situation at Tetuan thought very serious by Portuguese Vice-Consul there.

No. 46.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 13.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic). P. *Tangier, January* 13, 1903.

AS there may possibly be exaggerated reports in the press, I think I should report to your Lordship that, this afternoon, a fight took place between two villages which lie in the immediate vicinity of this city.

It was not a serious affair, but as all real authority here is dormant, considerable agitation exists in all the villages round.

There is no anti-European feeling, however.

No. 47.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 14.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 6, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod in regard to the situation at Fez.

I do not quite understand why the Ghiata and the other tribes who have throughout been supporters of the Pretender will be convinced that the latter is an impostor when they hear that the Sultan's brother is in Fez.

I have hitherto been informed that the above tribes believed, and indeed so stated to Muley Amrani at the abortive Conference on the 20th November, 1902, that the Pretender was Muley M'hemed, the brother of the late Sultan Muley Hassan, and so the presence of the latter's nephew at Fez need not necessarily weaken their belief.

Muley M'hemed's arrival at Fez doubtless has had a good effect on the population there, and possibly on some wavering tribes, who, like so many of us, have been confused and perplexed by the numerous contradictory reports of the Pretender's identity and by the similarity of names.

Still, so far as I have hitherto been informed, the stalwarts, if I may so term them, of the Pretender have always maintained that he is a brother of the late, not of the present Sultan. I have asked Mr. MacLeod to enlighten me on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 47.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 77.)
Sir, *Fez, December* 29, 1902.

I BEG to confirm my despatch No. 76 of last night, of which I inclose a copy herewith.

Since then there has been no news, except that the Sultan has, through Sid Abdulkarim-ben-Sliman, written to Mulai Abdelam-al-Amrami and his brother Mulai Mohamed, censuring them for their cowardice and mismanagement of their recent expedition to Taza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 47.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 78.)
Sir, *Fez, December* 30, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch No. 77 of last night, copy of which I beg to inclose herewith.

By the latest native reports Buhamara has returned from Tsul to Taza, presumably to pass the ensuing feast there.

Meantime, through a Shereef named Abdejjeleel-al-Wazzani, whose Zaovia and lands are in Haiayna, the Government has induced some fifty leading tribesmen of Haiayna to visit the Court and be shown the real Mulai Mehemed.

These men are now here, and the Government hopes that the reports they will take back will convince not only Haiayna, but Beni Warain and Ghiata and his other supporters of the imposture of Buhamara, and perhaps even lead to their surrendering him to the Sultan.

In any case, however, the showing of Mulai Mohamed so publicly here may be likely to prevent any further tribes giving heed to Buhamara's pretensions. So far no tribe regularly under Government authority has joined him, except the eastern half of the Haiayna.

This part of Haiayna (and to a lesser extent the western part also) is rarely quiet for any length of time, and the whole tribe is proverbially fickle and treacherous.

From all I have been able to learn, it was the unrestrained looting by Government troops quartered recently amongst them, rather than any sympathy for Buhamara, which moved them to join in the attack upon the Amrami's camp on the night of the 21st (22nd) instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 48.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 8. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 6, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit extracts from a letter which I have received from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, reporting some items of interest.

Although His Majesty appears to be positive as to the authenticity of his Taza information, I cannot believe that any French authority would have entered into any transactions with the Pretender. It is just possible that some unauthorized or irresponsible person may have made overtures to the Pretender, though, if it be true that the latter has inscribed a war against Christians on his banner, it is hardly likely that those who would suffer most from the consequences of such a campaign would be disposed to supply the means of waging it.

I read the letter to Mr. Forwood as to the loan, and have caused it to be posted, as requested. It is for that gentleman to decide whether he is disposed to undertake it on the securities offered, and I do not wish to express any opinion on the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Sir H. Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Extract.) *Fez, December 31, 1902.*

THE Sultan told me yesterday that, if possible, he wishes to prevent the Taza affair from being made too much of; that, if he sent an army at once, the tribesmen would be bound to combine for mutual protection; that he was sure, with a little diplomacy, he would be able to stop the movement and eventually capture the Pretender, after which he will punish the principal people concerned.

The Sultan told me that a man from Taza, who is thoroughly trustworthy, has been to see him, and told him that the Pretender received a letter from the French, offering him money and assistance to dethrone the Sultan, and to place any other Shereef he liked in power. The Sultan said he was trying to procure the letter. From what the Sultan said, he evidently thinks the whole affair has been brought about by French intrigue.

The Minister for Finance told me yesterday that they require a loan of 300,000*l.* from England, and asked me to write home at once to see on what terms it could be obtained. I have written the inclosed letter to Messrs. Forwood, and after you have read it kindly send it on.

No. 49.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 6, 1903.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 99, Confidential, of the 29th October, 1902, I have the honour to transmit, herewith, translation of a letter which I have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs inclosing a letter addressed by the Sultan to the King. I beg leave to forward a translation of the letter from the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman to Sir A. Nicolson.

(After compliments.) (17 *Ramadan*, 1320), *December 18, 1902.*

I HAVE to inform you that His Majesty has studied the reply brought by Kaïd Maclean from His Majesty the King of Great Britain, on his return from England, assuring of the sincerity of the friendship and good counsels firmly established between the two exalted Monarchs and the two respected nations, and expressing confidence in nothing happening to disturb it, or the continued freedom of this Shereefian Empire and its independence and progress, as also the contents of the Memorandum of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the friendly, intelligent, good Counsellor and respected Lord Lansdowne giving assurances of sincere friendship, and giving strong proofs of the reliance to be placed in all the above, and of the concern of Great Britain to guard this Shereefian Empire from those who seek to interfere with it and oppose its designs, and he gave advice and made suggestions which can be relied upon. This gave His Shereefian Majesty the greatest pleasure, and strengthened the firm conviction he had when he sent His Shereefian Envoy to His Majesty the King of Great Britain, the Glorious, conveying the news of the reports which had reached him, although common sense repelled them as impossible. In any case that reply confirms what His Shereefian Majesty had opined and trusted in, before its receipt; the doubts were removed as vainest imaginations to which no heed should be given. Praise be to God.

His Majesty has commanded me to write to your Excellency to inform you of the above, and to express to you his conviction that you are the cause of these grateful, friendly attentions on the part of his sincere friend the King of Great Britain, the Glorious, and its officers of State, and that they are brought about by your good intermediation and successful dealings, and His Majesty thanks you most fully.

His Majesty's reply to His Majesty the King is inclosed for transmission to its destination, also a copy for your information, and His Majesty trusts that you will act for him and his Government in thanking his Excellency the respected Minister Lord Lansdowne and his Khalifa Sir Thomas Sanderson in a sufficient manner, suitably acknowledging their kindness and good counsels.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) ABDELKRIM-BEN-SLIMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

The Sultan of Morocco to King Edward VII.

(Translation.)

IN the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, and there is no power nor strength save in God, the High, the Mighty.

From the Slave of God, the Commander of the Faithful, Son of the Commander of the Faithful, &c.

(Seal of Sultan Moulai Abd-el-Aziz.)

To our most sincere friend, who takes the greatest interest in our Empire and subjects, the most powerful of the Sovereigns of the Great Powers, the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, &c., the most sincere friend, His Majesty Edward VII by the grace of God.

After giving praise to God who distinguishes those of the nations upon whom he is pleased to bestow his assistance, and rendering them renowned for the faithful fulfilment of their promises which are free from the vicissitudes of change.

We received your Majesty's reply dated the 21st September last renewing, in the fullest manner, the assurances previously given to us of the sincerity of your friendship and your desire for the preservation of the freedom of this Moghrebin Empire and the maintenance of its independence, its advance in the path of progress, and the success of its undertakings, and your assurances that all reports which may reach us that Great Britain is treating with another Power to bring about an alteration thereof are merely groundless imaginations, and you state, with much emphasis, that we may rely upon your assurances in your said letter, and that we need pay no attention to any such false reports we may hear.

The contents of your friendly letter has caused us great pleasure, causing us such joy that its agreeable wording possessed our heart, preventing us from inquiring into its matter. An intelligent person is satisfied to rely upon the friendship of the sender of a letter and to have confidence in the promises made by the writer, especially as the promises were already given by our friend, the friend of our ancestors, the exalted Queen, your mother, whose memory will always remain in history, and are ratified by her illustrious successor to the Throne of the British nation, a breach of whose promise, or the word of its Kings, is not recorded by history. We, therefore, wrote to you merely reporting what we had heard, while explaining that we did not credit it, and saying that we still had confidence in the old, repeated promises. We did this as a friend informs his friend of all he hears concerning him, whether it is in accord with his belief, or whether it is a tale without truth, for then the reply dispels all doubt and proves the falseness of the spreaders of the report.

In the present circumstances, which are well known, it would not be fitting that a friend should hide such matters from his friend. In any case your letter has strengthened our firm conviction in your friendship, in the fulfilment of your promises and reliance on your good counsels.

We trust that the Supreme Being will grant you a long life and continued good health, and prosper the affairs of your nation.

Finished at our Court at Fez the 17th day of Ramadan (the 18th December, 1902).

No. 50.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received January* 14.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, January* 14, 1903.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram of this date from the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean.

Subject to Lord Lansdowne's concurrence, my Lords propose to answer (A) in the Commander-in-chief's telegram in the affirmative.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Admiral Sir C. Domvile to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Malta, January* 14, 1903.

FOLLOWING telegram received by Captain-in-charge, Gibraltar, from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier :—

"Tribes close here are becoming very restless. Think it would be wise to have ship or two ready, but please do not send any till you hear from me again. Agitation is amongst and against each other and authorities, and not directed against Europeans, but movement might extend."

(A.) Request instructions whether ships should be sent to Moorish ports if His Majesty's Minister at Tangier asks for them.

No. 51.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 14.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 14, 1903.

I HAVE just received news from Fez, dated up to the 11th January, informing me that the Sultan and the Moorish Government are very confident of obtaining the mastery shortly.

Tribes who were in rebellion near Mequinez recently have sent large reinforcements to the Sultan.

A strong expedition against Bu Hamara is being prepared.

I am glad to say that Mr. Macleod has not left the capital.

The price of food has fallen greatly owing to large convoys of grain having arrived at Fez.

No. 52.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 14, 1903.

WITH reference to your Confidential letter of to-day's date, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that his Lordship concurs in the reply which the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty propose to return to the telegram received from the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, authorizing him to order ships to proceed to the ports of Morocco should His Majesty's Minister at Tangier ask for them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 53.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 15.)

(No. 25.)

My Lord, *Paris, January* 13, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Wortley, Military Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy, respecting an article, published in the "France Militaire," advocating a French Protectorate over Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 53.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Wortley to Sir E. Monson.

Sir, *Paris, January* 12, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, that in an article beginning with the words "Irons-nous au Maroc?" lately published in the "France Militaire," attention is drawn to the state of affairs in Morocco, and an immediate establishment by France of a Protectorate, similar to that in Tunisia, is advocated. Although the article in question is of no great importance, yet it may be said to represent the feeling to which expression has been given on the subject of Morocco, in a considerable portion of the French press.

It is argued that it would be impossible for France to allow a state of anarchy and fanatical excitation to exist in a country contiguous to Algeria, and peopled by co-religionists. This would be a source of constant anxiety and danger. The supposed preponderance of British influence with the existing Government in Morocco is attributed to a "laisser-faire" policy, similar to that which proved so fatal to French interests in Egypt in 1882; and it is urged that order should be re-established, and the Government be directed in Morocco, by France alone. An expeditionary force should advance from Tlemcen viâ Marnia and Taza to Fez; the principal sea-coast towns such as Tetuan and Tangiers should be simultaneously occupied. Marshall Bugeaud estimated that a force of 20,000 infantry, 20 guns, 3 regiments of cavalry, with a month's supplies, would be the necessary force. Having occupied Fez, the roads to Tangier and Tetuan would be opened; a second division of 2 brigades would occupy the Tell region and the country of the Kabylie, while the Douï Menia, Beraber, Beni Guil and other tribes in the south-east would be subdued.

Such is the programme which is lightly sketched by an irresponsible writer!

It may, however, be regarded as most improbable that the present French Government, which is most pacifically inclined, will embark on so costly an expedition involving the mobilisation of a considerable number of troops, and one which would meet with active opposition from other interested Powers. It is politic, and indeed essential, that the French Government should hold troops in readiness on the Moroccan frontier to prevent the spread of fanaticism or any incursions into Algeria; but further than that, it is improbable that any military action will be taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. STUART WORTLEY,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attache.

No. 54.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 15.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, January 15, 1903.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 14th January, from the Admiralty to the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Admiralty to Admiral Sir C. Domvile.

(Telegraphic.) *Admiralty, January 14, 1903.*

SENIOR Naval Officer, Gibraltar, has been informed that he is authorized to send ships to Moorish ports on requisition of His Majesty's Minister at Tangier. Foreign Office has concurred.

(Similar telegram to Senior Naval Officer, Gibraltar.)

No. 55.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 16.)

(No. 21.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 15, 1903.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 19 of the 13th January, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that renewed fighting between the villages took place this afternoon (the 15th January).

Mr. Harris had informed me that the Moors intended to attack his house, on account of his having harboured some of the women, children, and cattle of the opposing villages; I accordingly requested Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres, the Sultan's deputy at Tangier, to send troops for the protection of Mr. Harris and his house.

Whether any attack was made on the house or not I have not yet been able to ascertain, but the aggressors partially destroyed a village in the vicinity by setting fire to it.

Apparently the attacking party were dispersed by the Government troops, who destroyed one of their villages.

I trust that matters will calm down, now that the people have been made to understand that the authorities intend to put down all such disorders.

No. 56.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 10.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January 9, 1903.*

THE last letters which I have received from Fez are dated the 2nd instant, and they report no change in the general situation. At Fez itself the people are quiet, and have resumed their ordinary avocations; complete calm appears to have been re-established in the town, the roads are uninterrupted, and caravans arrive as usual.

The Government have, I am informed, dispatched all available camels to the coast to bring grain to the city; and some fresh contingents of men have arrived from the south to join the Sultan's forces. His Majesty himself is confident of being in a position to suppress the agitation before long, and possibly to obtain the delivery of the Pretender into his hands. The Moorish Government still assert that this personage is none other than Omar-el-Zarhoui, the simple fanatic and impostor, and that his followers will ere long discover the deception which has been practised upon them.

I would leave on one side, for the present, all speculations as to the identity of the Pretender. It is a question on which, in view of the very contradictory reports which are current, it is hazardous to form an opinion.

The Pretender is reported to be at Taza, and the next few weeks will, I think, be critical ones in the history of the movement. Should the Pretender remain inactive for some prolonged period at Taza, it will, I think, be evident that he is unable to induce his adherents to follow him on an onward march outside their districts. Hitherto, it should be remembered, he has simply repelled attacks upon, and incursions into, the districts in which he has established himself, and it would be easy for him to rally his followers to his standard to resist these invasions. It is a different matter if he contemplates taking the offensive himself, and should he attempt this, there will then be some means of judging of the extent and power of his influence.

Reports differ as to the results of the appeal of the Pretender to the Riff tribes for their co-operation, some stating that his overtures were rejected, while others maintain that the Riff tribes have espoused his cause.

The reports which I receive from the south of Morocco indicate that all is quiet, peaceful, and orderly in those provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 57.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 11.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January 10, 1903.*

I HAVE received several despatches and letters from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, the latest being dated the 6th instant.

In the first place, Mr. Macleod, after consultation with the French and German Consular Representatives, decided to request all ladies and children to proceed to Tangier as soon as possible, and arranged that they should leave on the 8th instant. He explained the reasons for this step to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and to the Sultan, who both cordially agreed with what I consider to be a very wise precaution.

Mr. Macleod was moved to take this step owing to indications of an early resumption of hostilities, and also to there being a spell of fine dry weather, which rendered travelling practicable and easy.

Later on, if heavy rains set in, and if the situation also suddenly became again critical, there might be great difficulty in conveying the travellers to the coast. As to other British subjects, Mr. Macleod warned them that it would be advisable for them to move to the coast; but he naturally left it to them to take action or not, as they might desire. Presumably, some British subjects in the service of the Sultan will deem it their duty to remain with His Majesty. I may add that the French Vice-Consul, for

the same reasons which actuated Mr. Macleod, has, so the latter informs me, written to his Legation to defer the departure of the new French Military Mission from Tangier. These gentlemen, however, left here on the 7th instant. I beg leave to inclose a copy of the notice issued by Mr. Macleod to British subjects.

The other information contained in Mr. Macleod's despatches points to a renewed activity on the part of the Pretender, now that the Feast and Fast Month are concluded.

The French Vice-Consul told Mr. Macleod that, according to a private report which he had received from the Taza district, it would appear that, on the 1st instant, a number of the Haiayna tribe visited the Pretender. He is said to have reproached them in severe terms for not having helped him more energetically of late, and on receiving their promises of a heartier support in future, he treated with them as to granting to him and his forces a free passage and supplies when he travelled through their district on his march to Fez. Some Headmen of the western portion of their tribe apparently recently made their submission to the Sultan; but if their brethren assist the Pretender, it is probable that their loyalty to His Majesty will not bear much strain. Mr. Macleod, in another and later despatch, adds, in connection with this question, that the Pretender told the eastern Haiayna tribe that, as a proof of their loyalty to him, they must send a considerable number of their men, women, and children up to the mountains in Tsul and Branes as hostages before he will lead his adherents into their territory.

The Pretender, with a small personal escort, was said to have been at a place called Khemies-el-Ghor, a market place used in common by the Beni Sadin, Haiayna and Walad-el-Hadj tribe, about 35 to 40 miles from Fez. Mr. Macleod says "his mission there seems to have been the restitution to the Aits Annan (a sept of the Beni Sadin, a tribe always loyal to the Government, and who have a contingent now with the Sultan) of some flocks of sheep recently carried off by the Beni Warain people. The latter have made restitution by his mediation, which, in ordinary times, they would scarcely have done for the Sultan."

Mr. Macleod informs me that a large number of letters have been addressed by the Sultan to the Chiefs of the Berber tribes in the triangular zone of Fez, Tafilett, and Morocco city, ordering them, within three days of receipt of the letters, to muster as many of their people as possible and to join His Majesty at Fez, with the view of assisting him in the coming campaign.

Mr. Macleod further reports that he has learnt that Muley Arafa, an uncle of the Sultan, who was Viceroy of Fez from 1895 to 1902, and who pacified the Melilla district in 1894, with Muley Mohammed-el-Amrani, are leaving for the Riff country. It is believed, Mr. Macleod says, that the object of their mission is to induce the Riff tribes to attack the Pretender from the north.

Mr. Macleod gives some details, which may be of interest to your Lordship, as to the mode in which the Pretender conducts his fighting. He says:—

"It appears that during the three days preceding the defeat the Pretender divided his men into three parties—first-line reserve and second reserve—each party being relieved every eight hours or so.

"The first line kept up a sniping fire continually, but from a considerable distance; the second line rested and ate; the third slept. At the end of the eight hours the first line was relieved by the third line, and the second by the late first, and the third by the late second.

"It was also arranged that the reliefs should be effected under cover as far as possible, and the third line, on passing forward to relieve the first line, took with them food and water, which they left for the refreshment of the retiring first line. By this plan the Sultan's troops were allowed no rest day or night, while the Pretender's men were kept well fed, and had eight hours' sleep, eight hours in action out of the twenty-four."

I have in this despatch summarized the information furnished to me in Mr. Macleod's various despatches. I should mention that, in regard to the attitude of the Riff tribes, reports are very contradictory; some asserting that they have declared for the Pretender, while others state that they intend to remain neutral. The next week or two will probably furnish some further developments of the situation, which one cannot but await with considerable anxiety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Notice to British Subjects.

IN view of the likelihood of a continuance for some time of hostilities between the Moorish Government and certain tribes to the east of Fez, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul advises all British subjects in this neighbourhood to proceed to the coast at their earliest convenience, but as quietly as possible.

It is not, however, to be assumed from the above notice that any danger exists at present for foreigners here. All that is urged upon British subjects is that they should absent themselves from the district during the time when the events of the ensuing campaign might tend to make their position an anxious one for themselves and their friends.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

British Vice-Consulate, Fez,
January 3, 1903.

No. 58.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 11, 1903.

THE French Minister was good enough to impart to me yesterday the information which he had received from the French Vice-Consul at Fez, and which was of the same date as my latest intelligence, namely, the 6th instant.

The French Vice-Consul stated that he had been informed that the Pretender was at El Hadjra-el-Kabela—a locality about 30 miles east of Fez—and that there was every indication that he contemplated a further advance. M. Gaillard added that there was some uneasiness manifesting itself at Fez, and that he attributed this in a measure to the altered disposition of the Sultan to his brother, Muley Mohammed.

This latter personage had been received with every mark of sympathy by the people of the capital, and it was inferred that the exhibition of these popular sentiments had awakened the jealousy of the Sultan. In any case, Muley Mohammed was now strictly guarded ("étroitement gardé").

M. Gaillard further reported that the Moorish Ministers appeared uneasy and preoccupied, and were almost invisible, being in constant and close Conference.

He added that, owing to some blundering on the part of the Moorish Government, the Charaga tribe were again wavering in their loyalty, and observed that, were they to join the Pretender, communications between Fez and Tangier would be much hampered.

In view of the increasing gravity of the situation, M. Gaillard suggested that it would be prudent for the French Military Mission to defer their journey to Fez. This Mission left here on the 7th instant, but the French Minister had dispatched a special courier to overtake them, and to request them not to proceed further for the present.

The public at Tangier, who were for the last few days unduly optimistic, have again relapsed into the gloomiest view of the situation. The inaction of the Pretender at Taza for the few days following on the defeat of the 23rd December was, I think, to be explained by his desire to rest his adherents, to distribute the booty, and to celebrate the feast on the conclusion of Ramadan—a feast which, it is said, he observed with Royal pomp and ceremony at Taza. He was also possibly waiting for the replies from the tribes, Riffian and others, among whom it is reported he sent his emissaries.

If it be true that he has made an onward march, it is to be presumed he has induced his followers to assume the offensive, and that the next few days will enable one to judge, with some certainty, of the nature of the operations which he proposes to undertake.

I have received no detailed information as to the manner in which the Moorish Government have profited by the respite which was accorded to them after the 23rd December. Several fresh contingents have arrived from the south, and some preparations have been made for the defence of Fez; but I am afraid that, once the shock of the defeat has passed away, the Government were disposed to give too ready an ear to the reports of dissensions among the adherents of the Pretender and to the surmises

that the latter had been deserted by the bulk of his followers. The desire to minimize the gravity of the movement has, from the beginning, had a paralyzing effect on all the acts and plans of the Moorish Government.

The whole country south of Rabat continues tranquil and undisturbed by the news of the reverse to the Sultan's arms.

Considerable as may be the following of the Pretender, it has hitherto been recruited from tribes who, even in normal times, owe but little allegiance to the Government, and are noted for their turbulence and independent character.

The inhabitants of the fertile districts in the south, satisfied with a year in which no taxation has been levied, and enjoying the advantages of the increased facilities of trade, both export and coastwise, which the Sultan has in the past year accorded, are desirous that no disturbance of the present régime should occur. They have readily responded to the call for contingents of men, and have exhibited a commendable loyalty. Still, I understand that their fidelity, and, perhaps, gratitude, to the Sultan are not so deep-seated as to induce them to take any active part in the event of a change in the occupation of the Shereefian Throne; they have supplied their contingents, and have shown their good-will and contentment, and thereby I am told they consider they have amply fulfilled their obligations; but if the Sultan were, unfortunately, overthrown, and a new Sovereign or dynasty established in his place, they would accept the new order of things without any overt resistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 59.

[Nil.]

No. 60.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 14. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 11, 1903.*

CID BENASSER GHANNAM has informed me, confidentially, that the Moorish Government have just concluded a loan of 300,000*l.* with La Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas at Paris.

The interest is at the rate of 6 per cent., and the capital is to be repaid in two years. No securities have been required beyond an acknowledgment by the Sultan and a promise under His Majesty's seal. The bank has given cheques payable to bearer, and has engaged to honour the signature of the Minister of Finance.

The other loan of a similar amount, which the Moorish Government desire to place in England, would, presumably, hardly be granted on similarly easy terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 61.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 17, 1903.*

ON the 11th instant two columns, each about 2,000 strong, left Fez to attack Pretender on two sides.

These seem to me to be very inadequate forces to attain their wished-for object.

The Pretender is about ten hours from Fez on the site of his last victory. News of some results should shortly arrive.

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No. 62.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 17, 1903.*

I HAVE received a report from Mr. Macleod at Fez, that one of His Shereefian Majesty's columns had a skirmish with portions of two tribes on the 13th January.

The latter were driven back, losing two prisoners and six men killed.

The Government forces lost six men, three killed and three wounded.

Mr. Macleod puts the total force at His Majesty's disposal at 12,000 men. There are besides these 3,000 to 5,000 tribesmen within the city, and a body could be raised from the townspeople, which, however, would be of but small value.

Reinforcements consisting of the reserves of the column engaged have left Fez to join their main body.

The above news is from a private and not from an official source.

I have repeated the above to His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

No. 63.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 13, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch, with its inclosures, which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez relative to the departure of himself and other British subjects from that town.

I understand from a private letter that I have received from Mr. Macleod that he does not propose to leave his post until he receives instructions from me on this point.

On the 5th instant I wrote to Mr. Macleod, saying that I did not wish him to move from Fez unless it was absolutely necessary for him to do so; but that I must leave it to him to decide when that moment had arrived. His departure would, no doubt, cause a certain emotion in Fez; and I do not think he should depart unless circumstances urgently required a retirement. These instructions should have reached Mr. Macleod on the 9th or 10th instant, and I am repeating them by a courier to-day.

So far as I can gather from Mr. Macleod's despatch, there does not appear to be any great urgency, or that the situation has entered into such a grave phase as to necessitate so serious a step as the departure of the Consular Representatives.

Mr. Macleod, however, is in a far better position than myself to judge of local circumstances; and I am sure that he would not willingly or hastily leave his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Fez, January 8, 1903.*

THE Governor of Fez told me last evening that the expedition now forming against Bu-Hamara would be commanded in chief by Mulai Abdselam-el-Amarani (*i.e.*, the Commander who has twice lately been defeated by the Pretender), and his assistants would be the Basha of New Fez, Sid Abdelkrim Wuld Bu Mohammed Es-Shirgui, and Kaïd Omar-el-Yusi.

The last-named has the reputation of being a hard fighter, and the public generally would have had fair confidence in his even having the chief command.

The Basha Es-Shirgui is a man of effeminate habits, no experience in tribal fighting, and by his people—and the public generally—the most detested official in this district. It will therefore greatly surprise every one if he distinguishes himself now. He is a second cousin of the Sultan, and a sister of his was lately married to the Minister of War.

This morning the authorities have sent out large numbers of provision dealers, bakers, and the like to the camp, and have supplied them with tents and transport animals, and ordered them to follow the expedition and thus insure food being procurable.

This forenoon a meeting of the Consular Body was held here. We took all the foregoing into consideration, and, particularly in view of the characters of the Commander-in-Chief and the Basha Es-Shirgui, came to the conclusions given in the *procès-verbal* of which I inclose a copy herewith.

I also inclose a copy of a notice I am issuing to British subjects here this afternoon.

Miss Mellett, Miss Denison, Miss Greathead, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson (all of the North Africa Mission), and Mrs. Verdon left here this morning for Laraiche and Tangier, viâ Bab Tewka and Habasseh.

The three non-commissioned officers leaving His Shereefian Majesty's service, with Mrs. Dooley and child, left later in the day for Tangier.

I procured a guard of three Chirarda soldiers for the Mission ladies, so that they would have "satat" (safe—tribal—conduct) as well as military escort for the province of Chirarda.

From all accounts, however, the roads thereabouts are safe, and as the weather is (and has been) dry, they should all make a quick journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

Procès-verbal of Meeting of January 8, 1903.

LE Corps Consulaire, après avoir examiné la situation actuelle, est de l'opinion unanime que l'état d'hostilité qui existe entre Sa Majesté Chérifienne et certaines tribus à l'est de l'Empire peut gravement compromettre la sécurité des Européens résidant à Fez; il leur semble, donc, désirable que tous les Européens, y compris les Consuls, quittent Fez jusqu'à ce que la situation soit modifiée.

(Signé) J. M. MACLEOD, *Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique.*
HENRI GAILLARD, *Vice-Consul de France.*
G. LOEHR, *Gérant du Consulat d'Allemagne.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 63.

Notice to British Subjects.

THE Consular Body, after discussion of the present situation, are unanimously of opinion that the hostilities between His Shereefian Majesty and certain tribes in the east of the Empire may seriously lessen the security of Europeans residing at Fez. Therefore, they think it advisable that all Europeans, including the Consuls themselves, should absent themselves from Fez until the situation changes for the better.

British subjects are, therefore, warned to leave Fez as soon as possible, and notice is hereby given that this Office may be closed at any time in consequence of the departure of the Vice-Consul.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Fez, January 8, 1903.

No. 64.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 19, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 23 of the 17th instant. The news sent by the British Vice-Consul is confirmed by Kaïd Maclean. In order to support the column which was recently engaged, the Minister for War has left Fez with the reserves.

Kaïd Maclean is of opinion that the Government will not make a well organized attack, and that they are over-confident; and says if impending operations are successful no arrangements have been made for a general advance.

Kaïd Maclean thinks that the Pretender should be completely vanquished if the troops are properly handled, and no fault is committed; but it appears that Kaïd Maclean is doubtful if the above two necessary conditions will be fulfilled.

I have sent the above to His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

No. 65.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 19, 1903.

MR. MACLEOD, who had sent a messenger to the Taza district, informs me that he has now returned bringing information. He puts the forces with Bu Hamara at between 6,000 and 7,000 men, but states that some Riff tribes are reported to be joining the rebel forces.

The strict order maintained by the Pretender throughout the Taza district is emphasized in the letter brought to Mr. Macleod; his correspondent also speaks of the Pretender as Muley Mahommed, the brother of the late Sultan. Mr. Macleod also reports that he and his assistant, Mr. Hastings, were stoned on the evening of the 14th January; he attributes no importance to the incident, as he thinks that they were not recognized as Europeans.

The Government forces have not yet met the rebels, but on the 15th they burnt some villages in the Western Hiayna.

No. 66.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, January* 19, 1903.

M. DELCASSÉ tells me that the latest news the French Government have received from Fez is dated the 11th January. The situation was on that day considered as much more favourable by the French Consul.

It seems to me that his Excellency is on the whole hopeful that the insurrection is not gaining ground.

No. 67.

Sir M. Gosselin to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 5. Confidential.)
Lisbon, January 12, 1903.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Private and Confidential note which I received yesterday from Senhor Mattoso Santos, giving a translation of a telegram sent by the Portuguese Representative at Tangier (presumably on the evening of the 10th instant), reporting the critical state of affairs at Tetuan.

I had the honour to telegraph the substance of this communication to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Senhor Santos to Sir M. Gosselin.

Mon cher Ministre, *Lisbonne, le 11 Janvier*, 1903.

JE viens de recevoir de Tanger le télégramme suivant, que je m'empresse à vous communiquer :—

"On suppose combat imminent, et on croit que mission Française et Premier Secrétaire retourneront Tanger, s'ils n'ont pas rebroussé chemin. Kabyles de Benider menacent sérieusement Tetuan, d'où on demande ici artillerie et 500 fusils, mais il n'y a de prêts que 50 fusils et 4 canons. Demain on attend Émissaire Maure de Tetuan, qui vient conférencier avec Torres. Opinion de notre Vice-Consul à Tetuan est que situation est très grave, les autorités Tanger ayant tout délaissé, peut-être pour feindre ne pas se soucier des événements. Le seul remède, ce serait de faire appel aux Kabyles voisines Benider pour les opposer à celles-ci. On craint que ce soit trop tard."

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) F. MATTOSO SANTOS.

No. 68.

Sir M. Gosselin to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 6. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Lisbon, January 13, 1903.*

SENHOR MATTOSO SANTOS told me this afternoon that the news received to-day from the Portuguese Representative at Tangier was discouraging. He reported that the Secretary of the French Legation and the French Military Mission had been obliged to abandon, for the moment, their journey to Fez, having found the caravan road blocked, and that this, no doubt, accounted for the absence of any authentic news from either Fez or Tetuan.

The rebels were reported to be close to Fez, and intend to starve the inhabitants into surrendering the city,

His Excellency went on to say that he did not anticipate that the present crisis would lead to any international difficulty, "but the moles ('taupes') are at work—not on the coast, but in the interior behind the Atlas;" and sooner or later His Majesty's Government would be brought face to face with their French rivals, who have every intention of doing in Morocco what Great Britain has done at the other end of the Mediterranean.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 69.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 22, 1903.*

WITH reference to telegram No. 25 of the 19th instant.

The result of the operations on the 15th instant, the British Vice-Consul informs me, were that 11 of the Western Hiayna were killed and 27 prisoners were taken. The remainder took to flight and entered the Pretender's district. The whole Hiayna tribe will probably be induced by these measures on the part of the Government to openly join the Pretender.

This could have been avoided, and it would be a serious matter were this tribe to take up the Pretender's cause.

The Vice-Consul's letter was dated the 16th instant; he did not anticipate any renewal of hostilities before the 19th instant.

No. 70.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 27. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 22, 1903.*

THE following information has been imparted to me confidentially :—

Sid-el-Mehdi-el-Menebhi, the Minister of War, has informed Sir H. Maclean, in confidence, that the Sultan is very unpopular with the provincial Governors now at Fez, and that many of them would like to see His Majesty removed from the throne.

The Kaïd considers this news disquieting.

Of late His Majesty seems to have become overbearing and autocratic.

The Sultan's Government are borrowing large sums in France.

One loan of 300,000*l.* has been obtained and they are in negotiation for another 500,000*l.* more.

Besides these two sums they are treating with Messrs. Pariente for another 300,000*l.*, which the latter seek to raise in Madrid and Paris.

No. 71.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 16.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 15, 1903.*

I REGRET to report that a disturbance, accompanied with some loss of life, occurred on the 13th instant in the immediate neighbourhood of Tangier between some villages, which of late have been somewhat unruly. On the one side was a village with their sympathizers, who had been concerned in the outrage on the official of the Governor of the town, and in regard to which I reported in my despatch No. 172 of the 5th December, 1902. These people, probably fearing eventual punishment for their misdeeds, had been endeavouring, by threats, to form a kind of league among all the villages of the district. Some declined to join this league, and remained loyal to the authorities.

One village was attacked yesterday by the leaguers, but succeeded in repelling the assault, inflicting some loss of life on their assailants. All yesterday both sides were active in procuring assistance from other villages, and it is reported that to-day a fight on a larger scale would take place.

I sent Mr. Irwin, the First Interpreter of this Legation, to Hadj Mohammed Torres yesterday morning to point out to his Excellency the responsibility which rested on him for the preservation of order, and also the absurdity of allowing such events to take place within a few hundred yards of the gates of the town. Hadj Mohammed Torres appeared to consider that his responsibility did not extend beyond the town walls, and said that he had written to the Sultan for orders.

This reply was unsatisfactory; but I understand that his Excellency has subsequently modified his attitude, and is keeping a watchful eye on the proceedings of the disorderly viliagers.

The German and French Ministers also sent their First Interpreters with messages of a similar import to mine, and doubtless his Excellency then considered it prudent to view the matter in a somewhat more serious light.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 72.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 16, 1903.*

KAID SIR H. MACLEAN informed me, in a letter dated the 9th instant, that the Sultan had sent a Royal Letter to the tribes who are supporting the Pretender stating that he was most anxious to avoid unnecessary bloodshed, and that he was most unwilling to employ his troops against his own subjects.

His Majesty added that he offered a free pardon to all those tribes who would make their submission and render him assistance in capturing the Pretender. If, however, these offers of clemency were rejected, His Majesty stated that he would have no mercy and that all consequences would be on the heads of the rebels.

A strong expedition has been prepared to march against the Pretender, under the command of Muley Amrami, Kaïd Omar Yusi, and the Governor of new Fez, Es-Shirgui. This last is not to be confounded with the Governor of old Fez, who was special Envoy in London last year.

My informants consider that the selection of the leaders is an exceedingly unfortunate one. Muley Amrami has already suffered defeats at the hands of the Pretender, and can scarcely inspire much confidence in the troops. The Basha Es-Shirgui is said to be a cowardly unscrupulous man, and most unpopular in the district, while I am told that the only redeeming point in the third commander is that he has plenty of physical courage.

This expedition, Mr. Macleod informs me, left on the 11th instant, and much will depend on the manner in which it carries out the duties intrusted to it. I understand that the Sultan and Moorish Government are confident that the results of the expedition will be quite satisfactory, and that before many days have elapsed the Pretender will be captured and the whole agitation suppressed.

Similar roseate anticipations have, unfortunately, been previously disappointed, and it would be imprudent to repose absolute confidence in their fulfilment on the present occasion.

Both Sir H. Maclean and Mr. Macleod inform me that large contingents from the Zemmour and Gerouan tribes have joined the Sultan's forces. These tribes were lately in open defiance of the Government, and their adhesion to the cause of the Sultan in the present circumstances is significant and important.

Mr. Macleod tells me that considerable convoys of grain have arrived at Fez, and that in consequence prices of provisions have fallen. This is satisfactory, as it will assist in allaying discontent among the lower classes of the population.

I may add that the ladies of the North African Mission arrived here from Fez on the 14th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 73.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 17, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reporting on some movements of the Sultan's forces, and on the general situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 73.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Fez, January 12, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch No. 1 of the 5th instant, the instructions in which have my earnest attention.

I have no news from the Taza district since last writing.

Yesterday, about noon, a mounted force of some 1,500 to 2,000 Berbers, under Kaïd Omar-el-Yusi, and accompanied by Mulai Abdselam-al-Amrani, left Fez for, it is presumed, the Hajra Kahela district of Hiayna, and some 250 more have followed him to-day.

Kaïd Omar's forces rested about 8 miles east of Fez last night, and were expected to reach El Metafi this afternoon.

The Harraba and some further infantry, in all about 2,000 men, occupied the camp vacated by Kaïd Omar-el-Yusi's force, and are expected to follow it as a reserve.

Another column consisting of "commandos" of Ulad Jama, Sheraga, and Dukalla, under the command of the Basha Abdelkrim-es-Shirgui of new Fez, has marched to the north-east, presumably to attack Haiayna on the north side. This column is believed to consist of about 2,000 men, mixed horse and foot.

The Sultan's main body, which will provide reinforcements for all those columns, is still encamped south of the city, but is reported to be likely to move towards S'boo Bridge, when Hadj Ali-es-Susi's force has vacated the ground.

The inclosed photo map shows the dispositions, and probable lines of march, of the columns referred to.

Buhamara is reported to have retired to the border between Hiayna and Tsul, and close to the scene of his late success, while the bulk of the eastern Hiayna people have assembled to the east of Hajra Kahela. The position of those Hiayna is, so far as I can make out, that, on the one hand, they have refused Buhamara hostages for the attachment they profess for him, and, on the other hand, they declare their intention to resist the invasion of their lands by the Sultan's forces, and to avenge on them, if they come, the wrongs the former expeditions inflicted on them.

They consider, I am told, that the share they took in the capture of the Amrani's camp had placed them beyond hope of pardon by the Sultan. Withal their position is a shaky one both sides, and their support will be so valuable an assistance to either side, while at the same time their whole attitude may suddenly be effected by events impossible to foresee just now that no one can, with any fair assurance, forecast their action.

People (Moors) experienced in such matters expect that Mulai Abdselam-al-Amrani will negotiate with the Haiayna on the line of encouraging them to support Buhamara till the latter is induced to come down and lead them, whereupon he will be vigorously attacked and the Haiayna will then surrender him to Al Amrani. The city and neighbourhood remain quiet and as orderly as one could expect under the circumstances.

Mulai Arafa and Sidi Mohammed Al Amrani have not yet left on their respective missions.

The former is reported to be going to Melilla district and the latter to Oujdah.

The American missionaries left Fez this morning for Laraiche.

The Acting German Consul (M. Löehr) and M. Caldara (Italian), who has been in charge of the Sultan's arsenal, the German postmaster, and two German employés of the Sultan's (the mechanic who attends to the Maxim guns and the keeper of the wild beasts) all left for Tangier yesterday morning. Before his departure, I explained to M. Löehr that, although we had made every preparation to leave at any moment we wished, neither the French Vice-Consul nor I intended to depart until the situation became such as to render that step absolutely necessary.

The last few days, I remarked, the outlook had distinctly improved. The authorities seemed to be acting energetically, roads were all open (except, of course, to the east), and wheat had fallen 25 per cent. in price and barley about 20 per cent. M. Löehr agreed with this, and said he meant only to go to Tangier so as to assist the Germans who wished to depart, and to return as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 73.

Photo Map from Mr. Macleod.

[Not printed.]

No. 74.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January 24.*)

(No. 19.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January 17, 1903.*

THE hostilities which had taken place on the 13th instant between several villages in this neighbourhood were renewed on a somewhat larger scale on the 15th instant, both factions having received reinforcements. On the morning of the 15th instant Mr. Harris, whose house is on the opposite side of Tangier Bay, came to the Legation and informed me that he had learnt that the faction, which I may call the Leaguers in distinction from the anti-Leaguers who are on the side of authority, would probably attack his house that afternoon, as many women, cattle, &c., of the other faction had taken refuge there. He said he had already mentioned this fact to the Sultan's Deputy, who had promised, in case of necessity, to send a guard to protect him and his property. Being of opinion that a message from me would, perhaps, be of some assistance, I sent Mr. Irwin to his Excellency, who said that he would hold 300 soldiers in readiness to be dispatched on the first notice of any danger. About 1·30 P.M. I received a message that the Leaguers were advancing towards Mr. Harris' house, and I at once sent Mr. Bristow to the Sultan's Deputy, requesting that no time should be lost in dispatching the troops. With very commendable promptitude his Excellency ordered 300 soldiers to proceed at once, and this force was on the march at 2 P.M.

As soon as the soldiers were sighted the Leaguers commenced to retire; some skirmishing took place, a village was burnt by the troops, and the soldiers returned with what booty, live-stock, &c., they could lay their hands on. The whole affair was over by 4 P.M I am told that some seventeen of the Leaguers were killed.

In the evening Mr. Harris telephoned to me that many suspicious-looking characters were roaming round his premises and he would be glad of a guard. Hadj Mohammed Torres at once sent 25 soldiers.

Yesterday morning I asked Mr. Harris to call upon me, and I told him that I trusted he would refrain from interfering in any way in inter-tribal or inter-village disputes; that I did not desire to discuss what his action had been as no doubt most exaggerated reports had been spread about, but that it was clear that the Leaguers considered they had some special grievances against him, as they threatened to attack his house.

I was most desirous that in the present delicate situation every British subject should be most careful and cautious, as a hasty word or action might bring about a position of affairs which might be dangerous not only to the individual but to the whole European colony.

Mr. Harris replied that the reason of the animosity of the Leaguers against him was the fact of the women and cattle of their opponents having sought refuge in his house, which had occurred at a moment when he was not present, and that he could not send back the women to their villages till he was assured of their safety.

I sent Mr. Irwin to Hadj Mohammed Torres to mention this point; and it was arranged that the women should be restored to their villages, his Excellency assuming responsibility for their safety. As evening had then arrived, the transfer was delayed till to-day. Yesterday evening Mr. Harris again telephoned that he expected a night attack on his house. His guards were doubled, but the night passed off without any incident. I trust to be able to-day to arrange the matter satisfactorily, and to free the premises of a British subject from guests who are decidedly inconvenient. Of course I shall see that the safety of the women is fully assured.

I have reported on this subject at some length to your Lordship, as this continued fighting in the outskirts of the town might develop into a very serious question, especially as the forces at the disposal of the authorities are not very reliable; and if they suffered a reverse the situation might become a grave one. Moreover, I am very strongly of opinion that all British subjects should abstain from any interference, direct or indirect, in disputes and differences between villages or tribes. I need not, I know, enlarge on this point, as the dangers to which not only they but others may thereby be exposed are self-evident. If British subjects remain peaceable, I have no fear of any harm happening to them; but if they take a part, however well meant, in local disturbances, or attempt to play the mediator, they render the task of localising and limiting the agitation an exceedingly difficult one.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 75.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January 24.*)

(No. 20.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January 17, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of two despatches which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, the earlier one giving some details as to the composition of the Sultan's forces and the other reporting a skirmish which has taken place between the column under Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi and some of the Ghiata and Beni Warain tribes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 11.)

Sir, *Fez, January 13, 1903.*

SO far as I am able to judge from what one hears and from the size of the camps now here, the Sultan's forces in Fez neighbourhood number some 12,000 men, and are made up and disposed approximately as follows:—

Main body .. .. (Horse, foot, artillery, tribal irregulars, soldiers of the household, &c.)	5,000
Kaïd Omar al-Yusi's column and supports .. .. (Mostly Berber irregular horse.)	1,750
Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi's reserve .. .. (The Hanaba Regiment and machine guns, &c., 1,300; Hadj Ali Susi's infantry regiment, 1,450.)	2,750
The Basha Es-Shirgui's column .. .. (Arab tribe horsemen, irregulars, 1,000; infantry under Kaïd Mohammed-ben-Bushta-el-Bagdadi, 1,500.)	2,500
Estimated total	12,000

Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi's column is made up of contingents from Ait Yusi, Beni Mtir, Beni Mguild, Geruan, Zimmur, Ulad-el-Hadj, Beni Sadin, Beni Yezrabi, Western Hiayna, and (a very few) Beni Warain—all, with the exception of Ulad-el-Hadj, Berbers or Berberan Arabs, all of whom have professed their entire loyalty to the Sultan, and readiness to fight for him, and have exchanged "sulhams" in confirmation of this, and of a promise not to quarrel with each other.

The Basha Es-Shirgui's force consists of Ulad Jema, Sheraya, and Sais contingents—mostly irregular mounted men and Dukalla infantry, regulars.

Irrespective of the foregoing, there are always available for defence of the city from 3,000 to 5,000 tribesmen living within the walls, consisting of mountaineers, Tafilet and frontier people (immigrants) and others, quite apart from levies which could be raised from the ordinary town population.

These latter could be used for street guards and the like purposes, but would not be likely to be of any service outside or on the walls.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 12.)

Sir, *Fez, January 14, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to private information I have received, Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi learned yesterday afternoon that a number of Ghiata and Beni Warain had assembled at a certain spot to attack him that night. Kaïd Omar thereupon marched to that place, attacked and scattered the enemy and killed six of them. Their heads and two prisoners have just arrived.

Kaïd Omar is said to have had three of his men killed and three wounded.

This fight occurred on the border between Ulad-el-Hadj and Hiayna, at a spot called Marmotha, where those tribes' lands are adjacent to Ghiata, Beni Sadin, and Beni Warain, and which is indicated approximately on the photo map herewith inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

P.S.—Hadj Ali Susi's column (*i.e.*, Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi's reserve) has just marched off from the camp at Sboo Bridge.

J. M. M.

No. 76.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 24.)

(No. 4. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, January* 17, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that on receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 5 of the 5th instant, I called upon Señor Abarzuza, and communicated to him the purport of your Lordship's answer.

He seemed pleased at your Lordship's words about the position of Spain in Morocco, and requested me to assure you most positively that, whatever proposals the French might make, Spain would refuse to do anything which could be displeasing to England. He evidently wished me to suppose that the French were inclined to make proposals for some secret Agreement, though he was somewhat indefinite in his language with regard to this point. Nothing could have been more plain and outspoken than his expressions of good-will towards England and of his determination to maintain a thoroughly friendly understanding with us.

My belief is that Señor Silvela now sees the danger of the course he advocated eighteen months ago, and that, for the present, all likelihood of a French alliance is at an end. The feeling of the country on this subject has been shown in an unmistakeable manner, and it seems to have carried conviction to his mind.

I think it may be well, in elucidation of this point, to inclose, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying extract from the "Matin" of the 11th January, together with the comments made upon it by the "Epoca," which is the organ of Señor Silvela's Government. Señor Silvela and Señor Abarzuza seemed to have told the correspondent of the "Matin," in very plain terms, that they had no intention of being drawn into a French alliance, and, not content with this, the "Epoca" throws discredit upon the correspondent's account of the polite speeches made to him. It is true that the disclaimer cuts both ways, and it is probably meant to reassure the French as well as us; but, knowing what we do, we have good reason, I think, to be satisfied with the incident. Evidently, the correspondent of the "Matin" went away convinced that a Franco-Spanish alliance was hopeless, and, though the Spanish Statesmen concerned doubtless did make polite speeches, which were very likely true, about their personal feelings towards France, Señor Silvela now wishes to minimize in our estimation the importance of these.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Extract from "La Epoca" of January 11, 1903.

(Translation.)

ACCORDING to information which we have received by telegraph, the "Matin" publishes to-day, with the somewhat sensational tendency which characterizes that newspaper, the account of an interview in which certain declarations are attributed to Señor Silvela and Señor Abarzuza on the subject of alliances which have never existed, and of the distrust and suspicions of this and that Power, and of military plans and other topics, all of which are eminently suited to stimulate the palate of the most indifferent persons. On the groundwork of polite conversations in which assent is expressed to the sympathies and goodwill entertained by one nation for another, it is very easy to embroider and tack on all sorts of inaccurate statements which are disagreeable because attributed to

reasonable and discreet persons; but we are in the position to give the authoritative assurance that all that the "Matin" publishes on this subject is the offspring of the imagination of its correspondent, which, although well disposed, is most certainly highly extravagant, and that the story is absolutely devoid of foundation.

No. 77.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 24.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Madrid, January* 17, 1903.

SINCE I wrote my despatch No. 97 of the 19th December, the state of affairs in Spain has not materially changed.

The Liberals have not yet succeeded in reconciling their differences and choosing a leader to replace Señor Sagasta. The three men who seem to command most votes are Señor Montero Rios, Señor Moret, and Señor Canalejas; but the first of these is a man of 70 or more, and the last is extreme in his views, while for some reason which I do not fully understand Señor Moret seems to be regarded with distrust by a large section of the Party.

The Conservative Government has so far been treated by the Liberal press with benevolence, but there are indications of a change of attitude in this respect, and it is now asserted that the Ministry are violating their pledges with regard to the freedom of the elections. I cannot at present judge whether the assertion is well founded.

A funeral service, for the repose of the soul of Señor Sagasta, was held a few days ago in the Church of San Francisco el Grande. The King and the Prince of Asturias were present, with all the Spanish notables and the Corps Diplomatique. The church is a fine building, and the scene was striking, though, as is usual in Spanish religious ceremonies, there was something tawdry and theatrical about it.

On Saturday, the 10th January, as the King was returning from the weekly mass at the Church of the Buen Suceso a man named José Cóllar Fieto stepped out of the crowd assembled near the palace and fired two shots from a revolver at the first of the Royal carriages. The King was not in it, and would not have been hurt if he had been in it, for the bullets flew high; but the affair naturally caused some excitement. The man was cut down by a trooper and secured. His story is that he meant to punish the Duke of Sotomayor, the King's mayor domo, for refusing to entertain his petitions; and it is said that he had no intention of doing harm to the King. I am unable to say what the truth is, but a well-known member of the Senate told me that he had no doubt the shots were meant for the King. On the other hand, there seems to be little doubt that Fieto is a man of weak intellect, and there is no reason to suppose that he has been connected with the Spanish anarchists. The King, I am told, took the incident very coolly, and, in fact, seemed to enjoy it, as a high-spirited boy naturally would do.

Morocco affairs continue to attract much attention in Spain, and every change in the situation is followed with the closest interest. It appears to me that the attitude of the country need not cause us any uneasiness. All Spaniards feel keenly about Morocco, and, in so far as their means allow, they intend to be ready for any eventualities; but there is no excitement, and no signs of a desire to embark upon a policy of adventure. I do not feel sure that this attitude would be maintained if serious temptation arose, but at present the press and public are quite steady and reasonable on the subject.

M. Cambon, the new French Ambassador, arrives on Monday, the 19th instant. It is of course expected that he will do his best to revive the old idea of a Franco-Spanish alliance or entente, and this is likely enough; but, if so, he will have received little encouragement from the newspapers, which are unanimous and decided in objecting to any such arrangement.

Nevertheless, it must always be remembered that the Spaniards are an excitable people, and though in cold blood they see clearly enough where their interests lie, they may, if anything happens in Morocco, be carried away as they were five years ago. We must not, I think, expect that in a time of popular excitement their Government will be strong enough to control them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

No. 78.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 24, 1903.*

MR. MACLEOD sends me information, dated up to the 18th January, from Fez, that the column commanded by the Basha Es-Shergui of New Fez, which is conducting operations against the Hiayna from the north, have been checked and forced to retreat.

No particulars are given, but the Sultan has sent reinforcements from his main body.

The tribes near Oojdah refused the Pretender's invitation to join him. They have been ordered by the Sultan to attack him from the eastern side.

My news is incomplete as a courier from Sir H. Maclean is delayed or missing.

(Sent to Sir M. Durand.)

No. 79.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 24, 1903.*

M. SAINT-RENÉ TAILLANDIER, the French Minister here, has just received a despatch from his Vice-Consul dated the 21st instant, in which it is stated that Bu Hamara has suddenly advanced and is within five hours of Fez, accompanied by a large force.

If this information be correct, a decisive action would seem probable.

M. Gaillard says his information is confirmed and considers a battle imminent. He doubts whether all His Majesty's contingents will remain loyal.

My latest news is dated the 19th instant.

No. 80.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 25.)

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) P *Tangier, January 25, 1903.*

MR. MACLEOD reports that the messenger he had sent to Taza returned on the 30th [*sic*] instant, stating that he had left Bu Hamara 32 miles from Fez accompanied by 3,000 men. This news was communicated to His Majesty by the Vice-Consul, who was most grateful, as he had understood that Pretender was distant further from the town.

The Government have taken precautions against the camps being surprised, and they hope to surround the Pretender after enticing him closer to Fez.

Mr. Macleod's news is a little earlier to that mentioned in my immediately preceding telegram, and the Pretender may have subsequently approached closer to Fez.

If, however, the numbers of his forces given by the messenger are correct, the troops of the Sultan, provided they are properly led and remain loyal, should have little difficulty in overthrowing the rebel forces.

Absolute reliance cannot, however, be placed on the fulfilment of the above two conditions.

No. 81.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 20 A.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 20, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith some extracts which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez relative to the operations of the Sultan's columns against the Western Hiayna tribe and others.

It seems to me that these razzias on tribesmen who were not strictly speaking adherents of the Pretender, and who have indeed shown a disposition to submit to the Moorish Government, are not very wise measures. Others who may be wavering in their support of the cause of the Pretender will feel compelled to throw themselves on his protection, while the military advantages which have been gained are of no value. The Sultan's columns, on the 15th instant, the date of Mr. Macleod's despatch, had not yet entered the territory under the direct rule of the Pretender, and had not yet come into contact with the forces which are under his command. The issue, therefore, is still doubtful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Extract.) *January 15, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report that according to later information which arrived yesterday, the people attacked by Kaïd Omar Al Yusi, at Marmosha, were some Aits Tsarochen tribesmen who, some years ago, immigrated from his district, and against whom he bore a grudge. They were taking no part in the present disturbance, and Kaïd Omar has been sharply reprimanded by the Sultan for his conduct.

Mulai Absalem-al-Amrani returned two days ago to Fez, having apparently failed to make terms with the Hiayna people.

Arrangements were then made for the thorough punishment of the Hiayna, and since morning the Basha's Eshshergnis and Kaïd Omar-el-Yusi's columns have been burning the villages in the Wad Libbin and Wad Imawen Valleys respectively.

The Minister of War went out very early with a large body of cavalry from the Sultan's main body, and was accompanied by Kaïd Dris Beni Aish and the Grand Vizier Sid Emfudal Gharnit.

When this force was in position the Basha Eshshegni's people and Kaïd Omar-el-Yusi's contingent turned inwards towards each other and drove the Hiayna backwards towards El Menebhi's cavalry.

According to the Basha Abdessadok (Governor of Fez), who was present, and has just come in, these operations were entirely successful—a large number of prisoners, heads, and plunder having been secured.

The Basha, however, could give me no particulars of the numbers, nor of the Government losses, and, as he left the scene about 4 o'clock, the affair may not have been absolutely concluded.

The Basha stated that, to-morrow being Friday, there would be no renewal of the attack, but he expected they would be able to begin operations on Saturday against the eastern Hiayna villages.

By that time Hadj Ali's infantry (Kaïd Omar-el-Yusi's reserve) will probably have occupied the ground now held by Kaïd Omar, thus enabling the latter to move forward another stage and operate in the region ruled just now by Bu Hamara.

The Government appear to have made arrangements for supplies of food and forage to be sent daily to the various forces from Fez.

The soldiers' pay has been raised to 1 peseta per diem, and meanwhile wheat and barley have fallen—the former about 45 per cent. and the latter about 35 per cent.—owing to supplies coming in freely from Mequinez district.

Other provisions, however, still remain high.

No. 82.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 20, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith extracts from a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, giving some interesting information

from the Taza district. The messenger had been sent to Taza by a Fez merchant to a friend of his in that town, and Mr. Macleod considers that the information can be accepted as very fairly trustworthy.

Your Lordship will observe that the Taza correspondent writes of the Pretender as Muley Mohamed, meaning the brother of the late Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Extract.) *Fez, January* 15, 1903.

THE messenger I dispatched to Taza on the 1st instant has returned, having been successful in delivering the letter with which he was furnished, and obtaining an answer.

The following are the chief points brought out in his report and in the verbal account he gave me—at least so far as I can calculate after making allowance for Moors' hazy ideas of large numbers and their exaggerated manner of narration :—

1. The number of men whom Bu Hamara can raise, provided no more tribes join him—but including Hiayna—is probably not more than 6,000 or 7,000 men, and of these 4,500 or 5,000 or so are mountaineers—footmen with no stock of animals suitable for transport of food or forage.

2. He cannot move towards Fez without first securing the Hiayna country, nor can the Sultan attack him until that territory is absolutely free as a base of operations.

3. Bu Hamara burned and sacked a large number of villages in north and north-east Hiayna during the several days preceding the Amranis' advance towards him in the middle of December, and this with a loss of only two men killed. This circumstance accounts, I think, for the great scarcity of food and forage in the Amranis' camp, and explains what I heard at the time, but, for want of evidence, concluded was an idle story, viz., that the Hiayna people had appealed to the Amranis to assist them in resisting Bu Hamara's attack, but had been told that they must do the best they could for themselves, as the Amranis had to go direct to Taza.

By this refusal the Hiayna people lost their villages, and so, in revenge, first ceased to co-operate with the Amranis and later on took part in the capture of the camp to some extent, and pillaged the fugitives freely.

4. Caravans have ceased to come from Melilla to Taza since about the 16th December, and even letter communication has since then been difficult with Melilla.

5. The name of the place where the Amranis' camp was captured is Tafaza, and it lies between Hiayna and Tsul, close to a part of Tsul called Beni Ferassen.

6. Bu Hamara continues to maintain both Taza and the neighbourhood in a state of quietness and good order never before known, enforcing his rule with such severity as to absolutely terrify evil doers. The loot of the Amranis' camp was given up to him entirely and faithfully. One Hiayna man, who was proved to have stolen a rifle from that camp, was decapitated forthwith.

This is what the Fez merchant at Taza, who writes the letter referred to, says :—

"And from the 20th Rajab, when Muley Mohamed first entered Taza, there has not been even a report of any person striking any other person, or stealing; and on the contrary, the people have become merciful and brotherly, and all the roads are quiet night and day, and a man might go about with gold on his head and nobody would touch him. And I swear I have not informed you of anything but what I know to be as true as if I had seen it . . . . . ."

7. The letter concludes with a statement that on the 7th instant (its date) the tribe of Zenaya—some 800 men—[the figures, of course, may be *much* exaggerated] Riff people had come to Taza, and the other Riff tribes were joining Bu Hamara, but the Oujdah tribes had answered "that if he (Bu Hamara) were really Muley Mohamed, they would join him."

I beg to inclose an extract from the letter giving the market prices at Taza of various necessaries of life, and have marked opposite to each to-day's price in Fez.

The general cheapness in Taza is remarkable, the only article dearer there than here appearing to be European candles.

List of Prices of Current Prices in Taza on January 7, 1903, and those current in Fez on January 15, 1903.

		Taza.	Fez.
		Ps. c.	Ps. c.
Wheat	per mudd ..	2 50	5 50
Barley	" ..	1 60	4 50
Olive oil	per kola ..	8 05	13 60
Salt butter	per lb. Moorish	1 80	2 50
Mutton* (average price) ..	" "	0 66	1 52
Chickens	each ..	0 91	1 50
Charcoal	per mule load ..	2 50	20 00
Sugar	per cwt. ..	45 00	48 75
Candles	per packet .	0 75	0 50–55

No. 83.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 26.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 20, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting that he and his assistant, Mr. Hastings, were attacked with stones by a group of boys and men on the evening of the 14th instant. The incident appears to be of no importance, but I report it to your Lordship in case exaggerated accounts appear in the public press.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Fez, January* 15, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that about 6·45 last evening, when Mr. Hastings and I were proceeding on foot towards Sir Harry Maclean's house, and when crossing the open space to the east of it, we were stopped by a volley of stones, one of which struck the Moor who was with us on the foot.

The stones came from a group of men, or boys, on a knoll above us, and some 20 or 30 yards off at the least, and in the semi-darkness it is improbable that they observed we were Europeans.

We called to them to stop the stone throwing, and took shelter under a wall close by.

Presently the stone throwing ceased, but on our venturing forward it was renewed vigorously, our attendant being struck on the hand and foot, and the lantern he carried smashed.

We then returned to the street whence we had come, and found some men there, who told us that some slaves and bad characters had just carried off a boy from the quarter.

It appeared thus that this gang had thrown the stones to prevent their being disturbed.

Accompanied by the men referred to, and a soldier from the Grand Vizier's house, close by, we then returned and reached Sir Harry Maclean's house safely.

The men and the soldier then gave chase to the gang and captured one of them, a young Adour Shereef, from Mequinez, and took him to prison.

To-day he has been given fifty lashes, and he has given the names of some of his associates, several of whom are well-known bad characters, and the Basha promised me to-night that he will punish them severely.

* The Taza mutton is described as being of good quality, and that obtainable at Fez as bad.

Happily, neither Mr. Hastings nor I were touched, and our attendant's injuries were trifling; but I report this affair to you lest erroneous versions of it should get abroad, and in connection with the present anxiety about events here, it be given a significance which, as will be seen from the foregoing details, it does not possess.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 84.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, January 26, 1903.*

SIR A. NICOLSON'S telegram No. 27 of the 22nd instant.

Several French banks were approached some weeks ago on behalf of the Moorish Government with a view to obtaining a loan of some 300,000*l.* Messrs. de Rothschild's and Crédit Lyonnais refused, but former think that the Banque de Paris and des Pays-Bas probably arranged for a loan of this amount.

Messrs. de Rothschild recently again refused to come to terms for a further loan which the Moorish Government wish to contract, and are of opinion that it is very unlikely that it will be obtained at all.

No. 85.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 27, 1903.*

I AM informed by the French Minister that an appeal has been made by the Sultan to the Shereef of Wazzan to come to his assistance, and that the latter has decided to do so on the advice of the French Legation.

The French Vice-Consul at Fez reports on the 22nd instant that he hears that the Pretender is crossing the Sebu River higher up, as he considers the defensive positions occupied by the Shereefian troops too strong for a frontal attack. In this manner he would avoid the bridge near Fez, which is strongly defended, turning the Sultan's flank and advancing on the capital by a route which is easier.

M. Gaillard does not report this news officially, as he has not had time to verify it.

No. 86.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 28.

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 28, 1903.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 3 of the 27th January.

Messrs. Pariente inform me that the Bank of Spain is prepared to advance to the Moorish Government 300,000*l.* at 6 per cent. This sum is to be repayable by monthly instalments, after the first four years, in eight years.

The Shereefian Government have not settled some of the details, or the matter could be concluded at once.

Sir M. Durand has been informed of this news by me.

No. 87.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 28.)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 28, 1903.*

MULAI ARAFA. one of the Sultan's uncles, arrived here to-day from Fez. I am told that he has now received orders to proceed as soon as possible to Oojdah, where the tribes are agitated and inclined to join the Pretender. He was originally to have gone to the Riff to raise contingents. The Spanish Government, I am informed, have offered to convey him in a man-of-war, but this I have not yet verified, though it was told me as a fact.

For two days I have received no news from Fez.

I have sent the above telegram to His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

No. 88.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 11.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 28, 1903.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 19 of the 17th instant respecting the threatened attack by the leaguers on Mr. Harris' house in Tangier Bay.

I approve your proceedings in the matter and the observations which you made to Mr. Harris on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 89.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 29, 1903.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 33 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Señor de Cologan denies the report that a Spanish war-ship was offered to convey Muley Arafa to Ajerood.

Madrid informed.

No. 90.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 29, 1903.*

LETTERS from Kaïd Maclean, dated the 24th instant, inform me that the Sultan's forces dispersed a convoy sent by the Pretender to fetch barley. The men escaped, but some animals were captured.

Bu Hamara's position was reconnoitred by a party of Ziemours, who reported that his force consisted mainly of infantry. This statement should be received with caution, as they are not to be trusted as scouts.

I only report the above as it shows that the two forces must be close to one another.

(Repeated to Sir M. Durand.)

No. 91.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 30, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatches to your Lordship, Nos. 14 and 24, of the 11th and 24th instant, I now learn that the information regarding the loan from the Banque de Paris was not entirely correct.

The following arrangement has been concluded: Credit up to 300,000*l.* has been opened. On all drafts drawn on this credit, interest payable from the Tangier customs will be charged at 6 per cent.

The repayment of the advance is to commence at the rate of 12,000*l.* per mensem after two years.

No. 92.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 31.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 31, 1903.

I AM informed by the Legation Bankers that a difficulty as to loan has been raised by the Bank of Spain, which requests some control over those revenues of the custom-house which may be allocated for payment of interests.

Full powers have not yet been accorded to the Sultan's Deputy to conclude the loan, so that before the matter is finally arranged it will in any case have to be referred to the Moorish Government.

No. 93.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 31.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 31, 1903.

MULEY AMRANI, another of the Sultan's uncles, arrived yesterday at Tangier. Hadj Mohammed Torres has informed Señor de Cologan, the Spanish Minister here, that Muley Amrani will leave on Wednesday next, the 4th proximo, with 500 men for Melilla, and he requests that facilities for disembarking, &c., may be accorded him by the Spanish authorities there.

Señor de Cologan has telegraphed for instructions to Madrid. The object of the Moorish Mission is to advance on Bu Hamara by the north and to procure assistance from the inhabitants of the Riff.

M. Décos, First Secretary of the French Legation with the members of the French Military Mission, arrived at Fez on the 23rd instant.

(Repeated to Madrid.)

No. 94.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 31.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 31, 1903.

LETTERS dated the 26th January, have just arrived from Fez. A column of Government troops was working round the Pretender's rear by the north. The latter in order to avoid being outflanked is said to have retreated 6 or 8 miles.

From this it would appear that the Sultan's troops are unwilling to attack Bu Hamara, owing to the difficulty of the country, and that the latter does not feel strong enough to advance.

The Government in the meantime are endeavouring to detach tribes from the Pretender by negotiations.

It is probable that the present situation will be prolonged for some time.

I have informed Sir M. Durand.

No. 95.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 31.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, January* 31, 1903.

I WAS informed this evening by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Bank of Spain has been approached by the Sultan of Morocco with regard to a loan. Señor Abarzuza would be glad to ascertain the views of His Majesty's Government privately, as the Bank of Spain would like to lend an amount similar to that advanced by the French. The Spanish Government does not want the whole matter to be in the hands of the French, and his Excellency says that owing to the currency of pesetas in Morocco, a loan on the part of Spain to the Sultan would be specially convenient.

That there will be no objection, but rather approval on the part of His Majesty's Government is evidently his Excellency's hope.

No. 96.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 1, 1903.

LETTERS dated the 29th January have reached me from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean stating that at daybreak on the 29th January a general attack was made on the Pretender's position, the rebel forces were completely routed, and the Pretender himself made prisoner.

No 97.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 1, 1903.

MY immediately preceding telegram of this morning.

I have just received a second courier from Fez. The defeat of Bu Hamara seems to have been total. His whole camp was seized and the majority of his troops taken prisoners or killed.

The news that the Pretender has been taken has not been confirmed by Menebhi's later messengers, and it is not known whether he is among the dead.

The Minister of War is advancing on Taza, and he hopes to occupy it without finding any further resistance.

The guns which were captured on the 23rd December from the Sultan have been retaken.

Sir M. Durand informed.

No. 98.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1903.

MOORISH Loan.

Your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, No. 31. His Majesty's Government are in favour of British and Spanish financial houses participating in any loan to the Moorish Government.

Provided the details can be satisfactorily arranged, we are disposed to support any proposals that may be made for a joint loan by Spanish, French, and English Banks.

No. 99.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 24. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January 23, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that the Moorish Government are apparently anxious to extend their borrowings. I have been confidentially informed that the agent of the Paris Bank, which has already advanced 300,000*l.*, has expressed his willingness to lend 200,000*l.* more; and the Moorish Government are negotiating through another French agent an additional loan of 300,000*l.*

Messrs. Pariente, the Legation bankers, inform me that their friends in London were disinclined to render assistance, and that they are now negotiating with others in Paris and Madrid in regard to the loan of 300,000*l.* which has been intrusted to their care.

The Moorish Government are, therefore, seeking to raise in all a sum of 1,100,000*l.* The interests payable on the various loans will be at 6 per cent.

The readiness which Paris bankers show to make advances, on very slender, if any, security, to a Government in the somewhat perilous and uncertain position in which the Moorish Government are at present, is a question which, I think, deserves bringing to your Lordship's notice.

If the terms which have been communicated to me are correct, that the loans are to be repayable in two years, it seems to me that the Moorish Government, even if they emerge successfully from their present difficulties, will find it impossible to fulfil their obligations. Their total revenue, customs and taxation included, would not exceed the capital of the loans; and before the term of repayment arrived, some pledges of a very substantial character would doubtless be demanded.

Should the present Moorish Government be, by any mischance, overturned, and their successors were to repudiate the engagements of their predecessors, a situation would arise the consequences of which might be of an exceedingly awkward character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 100.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 25.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January 23, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 22 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to state that I have been informed by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez that some twelve people were killed and about thirty made prisoners among the western portion of the Hiayna tribe, against whom Kaïd Omar Yusi's column has been recently operating. All the flocks and herds belonging to these tribesmen were captured, and their villages burnt.

These events occurred close to Fez. Those of the tribe who could escape fled eastwards to their brethren. The Moorish Government, I believe, considered that there was little hope of obtaining by friendly means the hearty co-operation of these tribesmen, and therefore, adopted forcible measures, which they consider will have their due effect on the remaining portions of the tribe and frighten them into submission.

It is permissible to doubt whether this action of the Moorish Government will have the results they desire and apparently anticipate.

The Hiayna tribe is a numerous one, and practically lying as it does between the two opposing forces, its attitude is of great importance to the Sultan and to the Pretender. Neither, indeed, could advance with safety until he was assured of the co-operation, or at least the honest neutrality of the Hiayna; and both parties have, in consequence, been endeavouring to secure the adhesion of this important factor. The Moorish Government

apparently became impatient, and I fear that now it is probable that the whole tribe will throw in their lot with the Pretender. This would be a very serious matter for the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 101.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 26. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January 23, 1903.*

KAÏD SIR H. MACLEAN has informed me that the Minister for War told him in strict confidence that the Sultan was most unpopular among all the Provincial Governors at present at Court. These functionaries arrived at Fez in command of their several contingents, and apparently are much displeased with the character of the reception which had been accorded to them. Many among them, the Minister of War feared, were so discontented as to admit with equanimity, if not with satisfaction, a prospect of the Sultan's deposition. At the present moment this attitude on the part of the Governors is a serious matter, especially as their contingents form the bulk of the Sultan's forces. I trust that the Minister for War has exaggerated the situation. He is occasionally a little hasty in forming his conclusions.

Sir H. Maclean, however, considers the news to be disquieting, and agrees with the Minister for War that of late the Sultan's attitude towards all his officials has been very trying.

His Majesty, it appears, has become very domineering and exacting, and has shown little disposition to recognize the loyal services which, in a time of some stress and anxiety, his most faithful servitors are conscientiously rendering to him.

The Pretender, doubtless, has means of being kept well informed of the dispositions of all the Court at Fez, and would not be slow to take advantage of any signs of disloyalty. Personal fidelity is not a distinguishing trait in the character of any Moor; and a little persuasion, with substantial rewards in prospect, would easily shake the allegiance of discontented officials. This would be still more facile if the cause of their master were dimmed or weakened by any further reverses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 102.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 27.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January 24, 1903.*

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul informs me that the column of the Governor of New Fez, which has been operating against the Western Hiayna from the north, captured on the 12th instant a considerable quantity of cattle and sheep, killed four of the tribesmen, and took nine prisoners. Of the prisoners, four are released as they were strangers wandering about. On the 17th instant this column appears to have been more seriously engaged, and to have encountered considerable resistance. Mr. Macleod, writing on the 18th instant, states that it was reported that the Governor had been repulsed and forced to retire towards Fez. Reinforcements were at once sent to him from the Sultan's main body. No news of any importance had been received from the other columns; though it was said that some of the Government tribes had been engaged with the Beni Warain tribe, who are on the side of the Pretender, but that the results were not known. The Zemmour and Gerouan tribes, who had come from Mequinez to assist the Sultan, declined to advance unless they were provided with breech-loading rifles. This request was refused by the Government as it was feared that, once the tribesmen were in possession of modern weapons, they would desert to their homes. Eventually they were induced to join the column by Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi, armed merely with their flint-locks.

Mr. Macleod further reports that two officers from the Moorish garrison at Kasbah Sidi Muluk, near Oojdah, had arrived at Fez, with letters from the local authorities. It

appears that the Pretender invited the tribes near Oojdah to join him, but that they had refused.

The authorities at Oojdah desired to receive instructions from the Moorish Government as to what course they should pursue; and they have been thanked for their loyal attitude, and ordered to attack the Taza rebels from the east.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 103.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 28.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 24, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan, relative to the attitude of the Riff and Ghomara tribes towards the Pretender.

Mulai Arafa, an uncle of the Sultan, is daily expected here on his way to Melilla, and it will be of interest to learn the results of his mission to the Riff tribes, and whether he will succeed in persuading them to take an active part on the side of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 11.)
Sir, *Tetuan, January 21, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the man I sent to the Riff informs me that the Pretender under the name of Mulai Mohammed has written to all the Riff tribes to join him, offering high pay, but he says the people are nearly all waiting to see which side gains the day, and will join whoever is victor.

That part of Ghomara gave up praying for Mulai Abdul Aziz by name some weeks ago, and now only pray for "the Sultan, God thou knowest him," or words to that effect, but that the Riff continues to pray for Mulai Abdul Aziz.

That the Pretender is only known as Mulai Mohammed, it is not known whose son he is; that he is described as an elderly man, and not the Sultan's brother.

That there is a good deal of talk in the Riff against the Sultan Mulai Abdul Aziz, on account of his European tendencies, but they are afraid to declare against him for fear lest, if he should gain the day, he should treat them as he did the Bosoya a few years back, that is, in 1898-99.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 104.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 25, 1903.*

I WAS calling on the French Minister yesterday evening when he received a special courier from Fez reporting that the Pretender had suddenly advanced and was within a few hours from the capital at the head of a large force. M. Gaillard's despatch was dated the 21st instant, and it added that the news was not generally known in the town at the time he was writing. M. Gaillard appeared to have little doubt as to the accuracy of his information.

This morning I received a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, of which I have the honour to transmit a copy.

The report of Mr. MacLeod differs somewhat from that of his French colleague, both as to the propinquity and numbers of the Pretender's forces. As Mr. MacLeod's

despatch was written the day before that of the French Vice-Consul, it is possible that the Pretender had, since the departure of the messenger from Sidi Allal-al-Hurhar, approached nearer to Fez: and native reports as to numbers have always to be received with caution.

In a private letter to me Mr. MacLeod mentions that the plan of the Moorish Government is to entice the Pretender still closer to the capital by sending emissaries who are to assure him that the leading men in Fez are anxious to join him; and that when the Pretender is in the neighbourhood he will be suddenly surrounded and captured. Mr. MacLeod adds, however, and I agree with him, that "the Pretender has hitherto shown himself so resolute and wily an individual that I confess to not being very sanguine as to his being secured so soon or so easily as the Government profess to expect."

Within the next few days it seems probable that some encounter between the two forces must take place, and it should be of a character sufficiently decisive to determine the issue one way or the other.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Fez, January 20, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the messenger whom I dispatched to Taza district on the 26th December, returned to Fez this afternoon.

He spent five days in Bu Hamara's camp, four days in Taza itself, and three days in Bu Hamara's camp on his way back.

He stated that he left Bu Hamara at Sidi Allal-al-Hurhar in Hiayna, a spot only 32 miles or so from Fez, and that he had a following of about 3,000, of whom about a third were horsemen, the rest were footmen. His followers were mostly Branes and Tsul tribesmen, but he had also contingents from Ghiata, Huara, Mtalsa, Beni Warain, and Hiayna.

The Pretender had succeeded in making the tribesmen give up to him nearly all the plunder from the Amrani's camp, especially the specie and the transport animals. He had for some time ceased to make presents to his friends, and was now levying contributions from them. He had restored the local taxes at Taza and had sold the office of "Mohtseb" for 400 dollars, thus naturally raising considerable discontent.

In Eastern Ghiata there is an influential Shereef named Hadj Madani-al-Wargini Es-Shingiti, who has steadily refused to support Bu Hamara, so he lately ordered the Ghiata of that district to arrest the Shereef and bring him to his camp. This the Ghiata there have absolutely refused to do, as the Shereef is under their protection, and consequently, a quarrel is now in progress between them and the Ahl-Jahir, the Western Ghiata people, who were Bu Hamara's first, and are still his strongest supporters, and from whom he has just taken a wife.

My informant spoke with Bu Hamara several times, on the last occasion for about three-quarters of an hour.

He (Bu Hamara) inquired much as to what was said about him at Fez, to which my informant (of course) answered that he would be well received here, as every one was discontented with the Maghzen, and so on.

My informant brought two notes from the Cadi of Taza (he who is in prison for refusing to acknowledge Bu Hamara) to his relations here, and some verbal messages of a technical kind from a Fez trader there to his correspondent here, which proved conclusively that he visited Taza, and gave every one reason to trust his information on other points.

In view of the fact that, according to the foregoing information, Bu Hamara's and Kaïd Omar Yusi's camps must now be within striking distance of one another, say about 24 to 30 miles, and the need of guarding against a surprise attack by him, and the chance there was of perhaps being able to catch him by a large force of cavalry suddenly by a forced march surrounding his camp, and holding it till sufficient troops should arrive to capture it, I communicated this information to Kaïd Sir H. Maclean when we were at Court, so that if he thought fit he could tell the Sultan, and I had the messenger near the Palace to be questioned if necessary.

The Kaïd thought His Majesty should be at once informed, and readily promised beforehand that no harm should befall the man because of those services to me, or offence be taken because of them.

Sir H. Maclean then told His Majesty what I had said, and the Sultan, after heartily renewing the Kaïd's promise as to no harm ensueing to the man, and thanking me for bringing him, asked and received from me brief particulars of his news.

When I had concluded, the Sultan said the news was very important, for by the Government's latest information Bu Hamara was at Khemis-al-Ghar, a spot some 15 miles further from Fez than Sidi Allal-al-Hurhar, and so His Majesty had the man fully examined by the Amin Hadj Omar Tazzi.

The Amin then repeated the full details to the Sultan, who ordered the man to be sent at once to the Minister of War and Kaïd Dris-beni-Aish, who were still out at the camp.

Those Viziers, however, happened to arrive before we could leave, and so they also examined the messenger minutely, thanked me warmly for his information, and (I believe) sent out advices of it to the camps.

There has been no other news to-day, except that orders have been issued to have trenches dug round the camp.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

P.S.—The remaining days of my messenger's absence were spent on his farm at Hiayna. I inclose a photo map illustrating this despatch.

J. M. M.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

Sketch to illustrate Vice-Consul Macleod's Despatch.

[Not printed.]

No. 105.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 13. Africa.)
My Lord, *Berlin, January 30, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a notice has appeared in the "Deutsche Kolonialzeitung" of yesterday's date of the formation of a "Morocco Society" (Morokkanische Gesellschaft). The Society in question came into existence at the first German Colonial Congress on the 11th October last, and has for its objects the investigation of the geographical and economical conditions of Morocco, the protection and furtherance of the interests of Germany in Morocco, the cultivation of the relations between the two countries, and, in particular, the sending of exploratory scientific expeditions into the hitherto unknown parts of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 106.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February 1, 1903.*

WITH reference to the telegram No. 16 from your Lordship:

Can your Lordship inform me whether any steps are being taken with regard to the arrangement of a loan to the Moorish Government in London or Tangier?

No. 107.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February 2, 1903.*

I AM commanded by the King to instruct you to convey to the Sultan of Morocco His Majesty's hearty congratulations on the complete victory which his troops have gained over the forces of the Pretender.

You may also inform Menebhi with what pleasure I have learned of his success, and express to him my personal congratulations thereon.

No. 108.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February 2, 1903.*

MOORISH Loan.

Your Excellency's telegram No. 10 of yesterday.

Messrs. Samuel Montague and Messrs. Forwood have sent over a representative to communicate with the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, who have already advanced 300,000*l.* to the Sultan of Morocco.

They are discussing the project of a joint loan probably for 1,000,000*l.*, to be raised on the security of the customs by English, French, and Spanish Banks. They inform me that they believe that the idea is favourably viewed by M. Delcassé.

I have told them that His Majesty's Government consider it to be of the utmost importance that Spain should take a share in any such arrangement, and that our eventual attitude towards the loan would largely depend on such participation.

No. 109.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February 2, 1903.*

TO-DAY'S "Times" prints a telegram from their Madrid correspondent containing an altogether incorrect and very mischievous statement regarding certain proposals for the settlement of the Morocco question in connection with that of Egypt, which it is alleged were made to me by the French Ambassador at the end of last summer. It is further stated that I did not receive these proposals unfavourably.

Records in print of my conversations with M. Cambon on the 6th August and the 15th October have been sent to the Embassy at Madrid. You will, therefore, be in a position to give an emphatic contradiction to these statements, and to prove to the Spanish Government that I have throughout refused to be a party to the discussion of any schemes which contemplated the possibility of a forced partition of the Sultan's dominions.

No. 110.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 42. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February 3, 1903.*

INFORMATION has been sent me by the Shereefs of Wazzan that the Pretender left a small force, with tents and guns, to draw on Menebhi's troops, at a place where the fight of the 29th ultimo took place, and that he himself is in the province of Cheraga, north-west of Fez, with a large following.

The special courier who left Fez on the 30th January informs me that when near the Cheraga province on his way down, he met a large number of men, both mounted and on foot, who informed him that they were on their way to Cheraga to join Bu Hamara.

Though I send the above to your Lordship under reserve, I do not exclude the possibility of there being some truth in it.

Since that reported in my telegram No. 41 of the 1st instant, I have received no further news from Fez.

No. 111.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 4.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 3, 1903.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 5, I have just been informed by the Legation Bankers that the Spanish Bank has agreed to advance 300,000*l.* for six years, interest at 6 per cent., with an additional ½ per cent. per quarter for commission, &c., repayment to commence by monthly instalments after three years.

Tangier customs are to be charged with interests and repayments, though no customs control has been required.

The above proposals are being sent to Fez by special courier to-morrow morning, by Legation Bankers for approval by Moorish Government. As above may clash with negotiations in Paris, would your Lordship wish me to take any steps to delay assent?

No. 112.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 4.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 4, 1903.

I HAVE received a despatch dated the 30th January from British Vice-Consul at Fez.

Eighty prisoners and forty heads have been brought back by Minister of War. The Pretender's correspondence has been captured, which would indicate that he was at the fight in person. The arrival of Minister of War rallied Government troops, who were at first repulsed.

The pursuit of the enemy was slack, as the troops appear to have at once stopped to plunder the camp. Three Kaïds and twenty-four men were reported to be killed on the Government side. The general impression is that the defeat will be a great moral blow to the Pretender's cause; he himself is said to have fled to the mountains with the bulk of his forces.

No. 113.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 4, 1903.

YOUR telegram of yesterday, No. 43.

The French Government are favourable to the proposed joint loan from London, Paris, and Madrid, and I am in communication with the French Ambassador on the subject.

You should suggest to the Moorish Government that, until they see whether the joint arrangement would not be more to their advantage, they would do well not to accept too hastily isolated offers from any one Power.

No. 114.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 55. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 4, 1903.

I HAD some conversation to-day with the French Ambassador in regard to the recent attempts of the Sultan of Morocco to borrow money here, as well as in Paris and Madrid.

M. Cambon told me that a M. Goch [?], an Alsatian, residing in Morocco, and interested in various enterprises in that country, had obtained for the Sultan, through the instrumentality of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, an advance of about 7,500,000 fr., secured by a charge upon the Moorish Customs.

His Excellency was also aware that attempts had been made to raise a similar sum in Madrid, where a group of Spanish bankers had come forward for the purpose, and in this country, where Sir Samuel Montagu had been in communication with this Office upon the subject.

M. Cambon told me that M. Delcassé saw no objection to the loan which had been negotiated with the French bank, although he did not think that the time had come for employing foreign officials to collect the customs duties for the benefit of the lenders.

I told his Excellency that I had heard of the French and Spanish transactions, and that Sir S. Montagu had called at this Office to inquire how we regarded the proposal for a loan from a British house. He had been told that we saw no *primâ facie* objection to the arrangement, but that we desired to confer with the French and Spanish Governments before expressing a definite opinion with regard to it.

I said that, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, if Morocco was to borrow, it was preferable that she should borrow not from one Power alone, but from financial houses connected with the three countries specially interested in Morocco, viz., Great Britain, France, and Spain. There were, I thought, obvious advantages in internationalizing the transaction in this manner, and we should probably be found ready to take note of an arrangement of the kind we were discussing, although not with any idea of assuming any immediate responsibility for the protection of the lenders.

I told his Excellency that I would send him a note describing the kind of arrangement of which we should probably approve.

I took the opportunity of asking his Excellency whether he had noticed the statement made by the Madrid correspondent of the "Times" in that paper on the 2nd instant, to the effect that last summer M. Delcassé had presented to me certain definite proposals, according to which France and England were to settle the Moroccan question in connection with the question of Egypt, France being allowed a free hand in dealing with Moroccan territory, save on the North African coast-line. The writer went on to say that this proposal was favourably entertained by me, although its consideration was deferred for the time.

I reminded M. Cambon of our conversations on the 6th August and 15th October last, and said that I felt sure he would be the first to admit the inaccuracy of this account of them.

His Excellency said at once that the statement was wholly incorrect.

M. Delcassé had spoken to him again lately on the subject of Morocco, and wished me to know that, although France still earnestly desired the maintenance of the *status quo* in that country, it might, in his opinion, be prudent for us, in view of recent events, to discuss beforehand the policy which we might adopt in the event of a collapse of the Sultan's authority.

His Excellency went on to say that M. Delcassé had last year used the same language to the Spanish Government as that which had been addressed to me, and that he had found the Spanish Government much more ready to discuss the question. M. Delcassé felt, however, that it was impossible to deal with it unless His Majesty's Government were prepared to state their views. We had only to say the word, and the French Government would gladly resume the discussion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 115.

Sir M. Gosselin to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 12. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Lisbon, January 26, 1903.*

SENHOR MATTOSO SANTOS told me last evening that he was very grateful for the news concerning the crisis in Morocco, which I have communicated to him from time to time, and also for the valuable information and friendly advice so constantly given by Sir Arthur Nicolson to his Portuguese colleague.

His Excellency said that the attitude of His Majesty's Legation at Tangier was in marked contrast to that adopted by the French Minister, who seemed disinclined to furnish the Portuguese Representative with any information whatever on passing events.

M. Delcassé had, however, assured the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires in Paris that the French Government are more than ever anxious to maintain the *status quo* in Morocco and to prevent the opening up of any international incident across the straits.

This being so, Senhor Mattoso Santos fails to understand the object with which the French Military Mission has been sent to Fez; he has been informed that the Mission has again started for its destination, but no explanation has been given as to the aim in view.

His Excellency said that the "Don Carlos" and the reserve squadron is held in readiness to proceed to Moorish waters whenever necessary, and that, whatever might happen, His Majesty's Government might rest assured that Portugal would be ready to support their policy in Morocco. Should His Majesty's Government ever deem it advisable to land troops at Tangier or elsewhere on the coast, the Portuguese Government would be prepared to send a force for that purpose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 116.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 11. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, February 5, 1903.*

YOUR telegram No. 30 respecting the Moorish loan.

It is curious that M. Delcassé, when I mentioned this subject to him yesterday, said that he understood that after receiving 300,000*l.* from a Paris bank, the Sultan was now applying to Madrid for a loan.

The language used by M. Delcassé implied that he knew no more, or nothing, at any rate, about English participation.

No. 117.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 11.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February 5, 1903.*

WITH reference to the telegram dated the 3rd February from your Lordship:

There is reason to believe that the telegram in question was not sent off from the Office at Madrid, and there is no regular correspondent of the "Times" at present in this capital.

The statements made in it are being contradicted by me.

No. 118.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 45.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February 5, 1903.*

IN my opinion the presence of two ships at Gibraltar would be sufficient, as I think the situation no longer requires the presence of the whole squadron there.

No. 119.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to M. Cambon.

My dear Ambassador, *Foreign Office, February 5, 1903.*

I GATHERED from our conversation yesterday that our two Governments were substantially in accord as to the course which it would be desirable to pursue in dealing with the applications for financial assistance which have been made by the Government of Morocco to various British, French, and Spanish financial houses.

We are, I think, agreed that it would be better—

1. That the British, French, and Spanish Banks should come to an arrangement about the advance at present required by the Moorish Government, and should settle by direct negotiation with the said Government the terms of the loan.

2. That these terms, when settled, might be brought to the knowledge of the three Governments, who might take note of them if they appeared on examination to be such as they could approve.

3. That for the present there was no occasion for any intervention on the part of the three Governments or for any attempt to set up a control of the customs in the interest of the creditors, but that, if there should hereafter be default in the payments due by the Moorish Government, the three Governments should confer with one another on the situation thus created.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 120.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 12. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, February 6, 1903.*

MOROCCO. The "Times" telegram, referred to in your Lordship's telegram to Sir M. Durand No. 18 of the 2nd February, was sent from Paris and not from Madrid, and was inspired, I fear, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here.

No. 121.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 46.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February 6, 1903.*

KAID SIR H. MACLEAN informs me in a letter which I have received from him, dated the 2nd February, that the Sultan has told him that he has accepted, on conditions, the submission which all the tribes have now offered him. The Minister of War proposed to leave Fez on the 3rd instant with the object of enforcing the conditions laid down by the Sultan on the tribes in the Taza district, and he expected to obtain the surrender of the Pretender himself. It is not anticipated that further fighting will take place.

No. 122.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 30.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January 29, 1903.*

MULEY ARAFA, an uncle of the Sultan, arrived here yesterday from Fez. I am informed that a day or two ago he received orders to proceed as soon as he conveniently could to Oojdah, and not to enter the Riff country as had been originally intended. I am told that the Moorish Government had received news from Oojdah that the tribes in the vicinity were becoming somewhat unsettled, and showed a disposition to accept the invitation of the Pretender to join his forces. It was presumably considered that the presence of Muley Arafa would assist in persuading the tribes to remain faithful to the Sultan.

The agent of the English line of steamers between Gibraltar and Tangier told me that he had been discussing with the local authorities the freighting of a vessel to convey Muley Arafa to Adjerood, near the mouth of the Moulouya River; but that the negotiations had been suspended owing to the Spanish authorities having offered to place a man-of-war at the disposal of the above-mentioned personage. I inquired of the Spanish Minister this morning whether his Government were supplying the means of conveyance, and Señor de Cologan stated that he had heard nothing on the subject. In any case he did not think his authorities would furnish a man-of-war, though perhaps a mail-steamer might be offered if a suggestion were made to that effect.

I have received no news from Fez for two or three days, and though many rumours are afloat as to the advance of the Pretender, and as to alleged victories which he has gained, no trustworthy information appears to have reached here. The flanking movement which it was reported the Pretender was executing, appears to have been a mere cavalry reconnaissance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 123.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 32. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January 31, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 11th instant, I find that Cid Benasser Ghannam was not quite accurate in the information which he gave me as to the loan made by the Moorish Government with the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas. Messrs. Pariente, who have seen the Firmans of the Sultan, tell me that the bank has opened a credit in favour of the Moorish Government for 300,000*l.*, and has agreed to honour any drafts drawn by the Minister of Finance.

The interest which will be charged on the drafts is to be at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and will be payable at Tangier from the Customs.

There is no question of any control or inspection of the Customs. At the expiration of two years the Moorish Government are to commence repaying at the rate of 12,000*l.* monthly the advances which they have received.

I have heard nothing further of any negotiations in Paris in regard to other loans.

Messrs. Pariente, the Legation bankers, also informed me that the Bank of Spain were prepared to advance 300,000*l.*, with interest at 6 per cent., and that the repayment of the capital was to commence at the expiration of four years.

This transaction, however, is not yet completed. The Moorish Government did not give the Sultan's Deputy here full authority to conclude the negotiations, so further reference will have to be made to Fez.

Moreover, the Bank of Spain, apparently, has been reconsidering the matter, and has suggested that some control over those Customs revenues which may be allocated for the payment of the interest should be granted to its agent.

This point is still under discussion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 124.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 34.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January 31, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting on the general situation at Fez.

If it be true that the Pretender has felt it necessary to retire, it would seem that he has not met with that support and reinforcement of strength which he anticipated, and without which he probably does not feel himself strong enough to take the offensive.

Kaïd Sir Harry Maclean informs me that some of the Beni Warain tribe have arrived at Fez to arrange for their submission; and it is hoped that other adherents of the Pretender will follow their example.

Notwithstanding these more favourable symptoms, the situation will still continue serious until the Pretender is vanquished, or deserted by his followers. As matters at present stand, with both parties hesitating to come to close quarters, there is little material improvement and no immediate prospect of a termination of this wearisome position of affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 124.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 24.)

Sir, *Fez, January 25, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, during the night of the 23rd–24th instant, a force of cavalry under Kaïd Mohammed Ben Bushta-al-Bagadi, from the Basha-esh-Sherguin's column proceeding north-east up Wad-Lebben in Hiayna, burned yesterday several more villages thereabouts. The Kaïd lost three men killed, and the Hiayna two (at least those are all the heads brought in), and three prisoners.

Simultaneously the Minister of War and the Master of the Ceremonies made a sort of reconnaissance in force near Bu Hamara's position with Kaïd Omar-el-Yusi's column, and some additional cavalry from the Sultan's main body here.

Since then I have heard from messengers of my own that Bu Hamara has retired some 6 to 8 miles to the rear of the position he then occupied, possibly as a counter-move to prevent Kaïd Al Bagadi's force getting behind him.

The Viziers found him both more numerously accompanied and more strongly posted than they expected.

The reconnaissance party however burned some villages of the Beni Sadin, on the border next to Bu Hamara. The Beni Sadin have been and are still thoroughly loyal to the Sultan, but the villagers in question, being in fear of Bu Hamara raiding them, had abandoned their homes and taken away their flocks and herds. I presume the Viziers destroyed these villages to prevent them affording shelter and forage to Bu Humara's people if the latter advanced nearer Fez.

The Viziers returned to Fez late last night, and to-day Muley Abdselam-al-Amrami, Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi, and some fifty Beni Warain horsemen, have come in to the Court. These latter were under safe conduct of Sidi Mhemed-al-Wazzani, and are of a part of Beni Warain whose villages (it has now transpired) were burned by Bu Hamara some time ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 125.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 35.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 1, 1903.

AT noon to-day I received a special messenger from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean informing me that at daybreak on the 29th January the Sultan's forces under the command of El Mehedi-el-Menebhi, the Minister of War, accompanied by four Krupp guns and eight Maxims, made a general attack on the Pretender's positions. The Pretender was defeated and himself made prisoner.

Sir H. Maclean waited an hour or two to have this latter fact confirmed, and on this being done, sent off his mounted messenger. I have received no further details, and Sir H. Maclean evidently desired to let me receive the news with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P. S.—Since writing the above I have received another special messenger from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean and also from His Majesty's Vice-Consul reporting the capture of the Pretender's camp and the complete defeat of his forces. It appears that the capture of the Pretender himself is not yet confirmed, and the earlier messengers seem to have been a little hasty in their assumption in regard to this point.

Sir H. Maclean adds that the Sultan informed him that the Minister of War would push on at once to Taza, which he hoped to occupy without further resistance. I beg leave to inclose copies of two despatches which I have received from Mr. Macleod.

A. N.

Inclosure 1 in No. 125.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 25.)

Sir, *Fez, January* 27, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of my despatch No. 24 of yesterday.

The party of Beni Warain therein mentioned left Fez last night, having, it is said, come to terms with the Court for their tribe to join the Pretender, and then capture him.

Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi arranged the bargain between the parties and became surety to the Beni Warain for its being kept faithfully. He rejoined his own camp late yesterday afternoon.

During the last two days contingents from Abda Shawia and Mtoga have been moved from the main camp, south of Fez, to the Seboo Bridge camp first, and then to-day to near Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi's position.

The Minister of War has spent the last four days almost entirely with the camps.

A party of Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi's horsemen left his camp this morning for Bu Hamara's district—presumably to reconnoitre.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 125.

Vice-Consul J. M. Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 26.)

Sir, *Fez, January* 29, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch No. 25 of yesterday.

Shortly after midnight the Sultan's forces, under command of the Minister of War, advanced towards the Pretender, whose camp was near Sidi Allal-al-Hurhar, and with the River Inawen along its front.

Simultaneously the Beni Warain, who came to terms with the Court two days ago, advanced towards the Pretender's rear, and at dawn attacked him; upon seeing which the Minister of War ordered a general assault on the Pretender's front, which was carried out with such success that Bu Hamara's camp, with all its contents (and particularly the guns he captured at Tafaza) was captured, and a wholesale slaughter of his followers took place. The number of the killed is not yet known, nor is it known whether Bu Hamara is of their number or has escaped.

The foregoing news was brought by gallopers dispatched at noon to-day by the Minister of War to the Sultan at the moment when the Minister had occupied the Pretender's camp, and whom I heard recount their message to the Amin Hadj Omar Tazi.

The Sultan subsequently repeated the news to us (*i.e.*, Sir Harry Maclean, Dr. and Mr. Nevil Verdon, Mr. Avery, Mr. Hastings, and myself), and accepted our congratulations. I said that I would send your Excellency the news by express forthwith, and His Majesty desired me to give you his heartiest greetings.

Naturally, we all rejoice to have this news—which is so far good—and trust that it will be confirmed, and that the Pretender will shortly be captured.

The inclosed photograph map shows the movements above described.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 126.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 12.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February* 6, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have communicated the substance of your telegrams Nos. 16 and 17 to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

This evening, having received telegram No. 43 from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier, I asked Señor Abarzuza what the exact state of affairs with regard to the loan now was. He replied that a silver loan of 10,000,000 pesetas (approximately 300,000*l.*) had been practically agreed to by the Bank of Spain, but that, if it were found to be possible, the Spanish Government would be happy to join in a loan with the British and French Governments, either including the other transaction in such a joint loan or making a further loan. Señor Abarzuza omitted to explain why it was that he last week asked me to ascertain the opinion of His Majesty's Government regarding the separate Spanish loan. As he was then speaking English, in which he is not so much at home as in French, it is possible that he said more than he meant. But his words were, "I have stopped the loan."

I am under the impression he believed he had done this, but that the Bank of Spain, which is a very powerful body, proceeded with the transaction, and he prefers not to confess this.

No. 127.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 13.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February* 6, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have just talked over with the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs the question respecting which your Lordship sent me your telegram No. 18 of the 3rd instant. The Spanish Government are, he assures me, perfectly satisfied that the statements made by the correspondent of the "Times" are not correct; and in the Council held yesterday the Prime Minister, when explaining the state of affairs to the King, expressed complete confidence in the loyalty and friendly feeling of His Majesty's Government, whose attitude left nothing to be desired.

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* Not printed.

No. 128.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February 7, 1903.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 7 of to-day"s date.

Messrs. Pariente inform me now that they have said in the Memorandum communicated to the Moorish Government that the loan is given with the consent of the Spanish Government, and that the Moorish Government will be informed who the bank or party is who finds the money when they have accepted the proposals.

I am told that the negotiations were conducted between Messrs. Pariente, Señor de Cologan, the Spanish Minister here, Señor de Abarzuza, the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and M. Nahon, the Banco de Español Agent at Tangier.

Messrs. Pariente cannot yet say the name that will be given eventually.

The question appears to be somewhat involved.

It is possible that, on my suggestion, the Moorish Government may for a time delay their assent, but, as I understand that they are hard pressed for money, they will soon be anxious to know when they may expect some information as to the joint loan.

Sir M. Durand informed.

No. 129.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February 9, 1903.*

THE French Ambassador and I have come to an agreement on the following points respecting the loan to be made to the Moorish Government, and his Excellency promised to submit the same to M. Delcassé.

1. An arrangement should be come to by the British, French, and Spanish banks, about the advance at present required by the Government of Morocco, and the terms should be settled by direct negotiation.

2. At present there should be no question of intervention on the part of the three Governments, or of a foreign control of the customs in the interest of the creditors. In case, however, of default on the part of the Moorish Government, the three Governments might then consider what action they might properly take to insure punctuality in the payments.

3. The banks should bring the terms of any arrangement they may arrive at to the notice of the three Governments, who might, if they appear acceptable, take note of them.

You should communicate this information confidentially to Señor Abarzuza, as I have not as yet had an opportunity of discussing the matter with the Spanish Ambassador.

No. 130.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 9. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February 10, 1903.*

THE negotiations for a joint loan to Morocco have, as far as we know, reached the following stage:—

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Messrs. Forwood are negotiating with the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas, to arrange a loan of 1,000,000*l.* from British, French, and Spanish banks, on conditions based on the principles agreed to by M. Cambon and myself, such loan to include the advances already made.

These negotiations, however, are likely to be protracted and may eventually fail, therefore Sir Ernest Cassel has informed Mr. Stern that he is of opinion that a loan of the same amount and on the same conditions as that made by the French bank, might be arranged for in London.

No. 131.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 19.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 10, 1903.*

I TOLD the Spanish Ambassador to-day that His Majesty's Government had of late been considering the policy which they should adopt in reference to the attempt being made by the Sultan of Morocco to raise money in different European capitals. I said that in our view it was important that any advances made to Morocco should be made not by a single Power, but by the Powers mainly interested in Moorish affairs. Those Powers obviously were Spain, Great Britain, and France.

We therefore thought it would be desirable—

(1.) That the British, French, and Spanish Banks should come to an arrangement about the advance at present required by the Moorish Government, and should settle by direct negotiation with the said Government the terms of the loan.

(2.) That these terms, when settled, might be brought to the knowledge of the three Governments, who might take note of them if they appeared on examination to be such as they could approve.

(3.) That for the present there was no occasion for any intervention on the part of the three Governments, or for any attempt to set up a control of the customs in the interest of the creditors, but that if there should hereafter be default in the payments due by the Moorish Government, the three Governments might consider what steps could properly be taken to secure the punctual service of the loan.

We had reason to know that the French Government agreed with us in the policy which I had described. I added that certain British houses were in treaty with the Moorish Government, and would be prepared to find the money upon the same terms as those by which it would be advanced elsewhere.

His Excellency thanked me for my communication, and told me that he had received no information whatever upon the subject from the Spanish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 132.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 11.)

(No 48.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February 11, 1903.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 9 of the 10th instant, if Mr. Stern should inform Messrs. Pariente that Sir E. Cassel is prepared to permit the Moorish Government to open a credit for 300,000*l.* on the same terms as those arranged with Paris bank, it is probable that the Moorish Government would ask what attitude they should take up in regard to the Spanish offers made to them through Messrs. Pariente.

It is probable that the Moorish Government would prefer the British offer, as its terms are slightly easier, other considerations apart.

On the 5th February I suggested to the Moorish Minister of Finance that, as it was probable that he might receive a proposal for a joint loan from Spanish, British, and French banks, he might delay giving his assent to the Spanish offer.

Doubtless the Moorish Government would see their way clearly if the joint loan negotiations were concluded and the three banks made a joint proposal, but they may be puzzled if they now receive a fresh proposal from Messrs. Pariente on behalf of an English firm alone.

Would the following course have your Lordship's approval?

May I let the Moorish Government understand that they could accept Sir E. Cassel's proposal if it is presented through Messrs. Pariente, leaving it to them to decide whether they would also accept the offer made to them by the Spanish bank, and intimating to them at the same time that they should utilize the joint loan, if it is eventually offered to them by the three banks for repaying the advances from all other creditors.

No 133.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 62. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 55 of the 4th instant, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a private note which I addressed to the French Ambassador on the 5th instant,* as to the course which it would be desirable for our Governments to pursue in dealing with the applications for financial assistance which have been made by the Government of Morocco to various British, French, and Spanish financial houses.

I have ascertained privately that M. Cambon considers that my note correctly represents the agreement arrived at between us in our conversation, and that he has forwarded it to M. Delcassé for the purpose of obtaining his concurrence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 134.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Gosselin.

(No. 10.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1903.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 12, Confidential, of the 26th ultimo, reporting a conversation which you had held with Senhor Mattoso Santos on the preceding evening in regard to the crisis in Morocco.

I request you to thank his Excellency for his assurance as to the readiness of Portugal to support the policy of His Majesty's Government in Morocco.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 135.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 10. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1903.

I THINK that the course proposed in your telegram No. 48 of to-day's date is the right one.

Please let me know if the Legation bankers have not heard from Mr. Stern and I will endeavour to persuade him to send a message at once, as it is very desirable that Sir E. Cassel's offer should be brought to the knowledge of the Moorish Government as soon as possible.

Messrs. Forward and Montagu's agent, who returned from Paris yesterday, reports that the French Government have not given their approval of the joint loan scheme and that meanwhile the negotiations are at a standstill. The Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas are sending a representative to Tangier, and it is somewhat to be feared that they may endeavour to do the whole business on their own account.

We do not at all wish Spain to be kept out of the transaction, but on no account ought we to allow ourselves to be left out.

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* No. 119.

No. 136.

Sir M. Gosselin to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Lisbon, February* 7, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2 of the 2nd ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Portuguese cruiser "Dona Amelia" returned here from Gibraltar yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 137.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 49. Confidential).
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 11, 1903.

REFERRING to your Lordship's telegram No. 10 of to-day's date, I am informed that no communication from Mr. Stern has as yet reached Messrs. Pariente.

I would forward the message to Fez at once as soon as I receive it.

No. 138.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 12, 1903.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 4 of the 2nd February.

The Sultan wishes to convey to the King his most sincere thanks for His Majesty's friendly message. His Shereefian Majesty is deeply grateful to His Majesty for his kindly and sympathetic thought.

Your Lordship's message has been sent to Cid Mehedi-el-Menebhi, the Minister of War, who is absent from Fez, conducting operations in the Taza district.

No. 139.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 12, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship, No. 49 of yesterday's date, I have received information from Messrs. Pariente that a telegram has been received by them from Mr. Stern, stating that a letter was sent them by him on the 9th February. This should arrive on the 14th February at Tangier.

As posts are sometimes delayed I venture to ask if the substance of the letter might be telegraphed.

No. 140.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 3, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan, reporting the return of a messenger whom he had sent into Ghomara district.

The messenger reports that, notwithstanding a letter from the Pretender calling upon them to assist him, the tribes there have no intention of joining either side, but are waiting to see which has the advantage.

Mr. Bewicke is of opinion that the people of Tetuan are of the same way of thinking.

I would point out that the Pretender is alleged to base the grievances against the Sultan on the ground of His Majesty having ceded territory to the Christians and having surrounded himself with Christian advisers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 140.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 15.)

Sir, *Tetuan, February* 1, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that my man has returned from Ghomara.

He reports that there is a large assembly of people at Wad Hallou, five from each Ghomara village, but he says this is only on account of a dispute with Beni Said.

He reports that a letter from the Pretender has been received in all the market places of Ghomara, in Khamas, and in the town of Chechouan.

He says he was told the contents of the Pretender's letter by a man who said he had read it. That in the letter Mulai Abdul Aziz is accused of having given over or sold the country to the Christians, that he is surrounded by Christians who advise him, and he does all that they wish. The letter then calls on the people to be ready with their guns, powder, and prayers, as he is going to fight Mulai Abdul Aziz, and adds that the day he calls on them they must be ready to join him.

The letter is said to bear no seal and to be merely signed Mulai Mohammed.

My man says the country is disturbed and it is not safe to go about alone, and that he could not travel by night. He says the people talk a great deal about the wonderful powers of the Pretender in producing water from dry places and providing grain, &c., but that they have no intention of joining either side, and are waiting to see which side gains the day.

This description of waiting to see which side gains the day and the conversation may also be applied to this town, I think.

A Moor told me this morning that he believed the Governor here has also received a letter from the Pretender, sent on from Chechouan, but says the receipt of the letter is kept very secret.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 141.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received Februarp 13.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 4, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, giving some details as to the action against the Pretender's position on the 29th ultimo.

It is evident that the presence and energy of Ci Mehedi-el-Menebhi, the Minister of War, chiefly contributed to the success of the Sultan's forces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Fez, January* 30, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch No. 26 of yesterday evening.

This morning the Minister of War returned from the scene of yesterday's fight, bringing with him some eighty prisoners, one of whom is reported to be Buhamara's Secretary, and thirty-nine heads.

My two messengers also returned. One of them was near the Minister of War during the operations, and the other took part in the attack.

Their accounts are substantially in agreement, and from them it appears that the fighting was begun by the Beni Warain on the Pretender's left flank, and a body of mounted tribesmen, consisting of Ait Yusi, Beni Sadin, and Beni M'tir, under Kaïd Omar-el-Yusi, then attacked him in front, but were driven back. They were rallied, however, and again attacked, other bodies of tribesmen advancing against Buhamara's right front, supported by the Minister of War and the main body, mostly infantry.

A general flight of the Pretender and his followers then took place. They abandoned their camp and its contents to the troops, who forthwith began to plunder, and made no serious attempt to pursue and punish the enemy, nor have they done so even yet, so far as I can learn, the great bulk of the insurgents thus escaping.

So far as I can judge, Buhamara's following is probably not more than 2,500 to 3,000, if, indeed, as many, and was composed chiefly of Branes, Tsul, and Hiayana people, and that of the above number only 500 or 600 were horsemen.

The Pretender's own tent and its contents, which included his books and correspondence, were captured, apparently intact.

The correspondence is rumoured to implicate many people in Fez, but I have, as yet, no reliable information on this point, and it is to be remembered that numbers of letters from Fez people were written by the Government's consent to encourage the Pretender to approach Fez.

The guns lost at Tafaza were all captured, as also a gun Buhamara had taken out of Taza.

Buhamara himself is supposed to have gone back to Ahl Tahir, Ghiata.

So far I have no reliable particulars of the Government losses in the affair. Three Kaïds, however, who were killed were buried at Fez this morning, and, so far, twenty-four men are reported killed.

Kaïd Omar-el-Yusi is reported to be slightly wounded.

By all accounts, the Minister of War acted with much courage and energy throughout. My informant, who was near the Minister, said it was his presence and exertions alone which rallied the troops at the first check, and pushed home the attack.

Incomplete as the victory is from an European standpoint, the moral effect has been very considerable.

It is a great relief to the city and district, and cannot fail to put new heart and life into the Sultan's troops, while at the same time damaging Buhamara's reputation, probably beyond repair, amongst the fickle, superstitious tribes who have followed him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 142.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 38. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 3, 1903.

I WAS informed this morning, from a source which is usually well acquainted with Moorish affairs, but which is not very friendly disposed towards the Sultan, that the Pretender, with a large following, was at Hagira Cheriffa in the Cheraga Province, to the north-west of Fez. My informant added, that the Pretender had executed a very able movement, and had performed an ingenious ruse which had been quite successful. My informant stated that he had received a letter, dated the 30th January,

from a friend in Fez, reporting that the Pretender had left a camp at Si Allal with the guns he had captured from the Sultan's forces on the 23rd December, and which he found cumbersome to move, in order to attract the Sultan's troops from Fez; and he had then made a rapid march with the bulk of his forces to Hagira Cheriffa, where there are large stores of grain, and whence the road to Fez is easy. His plan proved successful, and he was therefore established on the 30th ultimo at the above-named locality, within a few hours of the capital, whence he had cleverly drawn the main body of the Sultan's forces in an easterly direction in pursuit of a phantom enemy.

Such is the story of my informant.

A special courier who left Fez early on the 30th ultimo reported to this Legation this morning that, about noon of that day in the Aissa district, which lies to the west of the Cheraga district, he met large bodies of men, mounted and on foot, who stopped him and inquired of him whence he came and whither he was going. He gave the desired information; and in reply to further inquiries, he stated that all was quiet at Fez, and that the Sultan was there and in good health. The men told him that the true Sultan was at Hagira Cheriffa, whither they had been summoned to join him, and that they were on their way thither. The man stated, and he was evidently speaking the truth, that the above was what he saw and what he heard.

This corroboration in a measure of the earlier story has given rise to some disquieting doubts in my mind as to the completeness of the victory gained by Ci-el-Menebhi on the 29th ultimo. El Menebhi informed the Sultan that he had met with a stubborn resistance, that the enemy was more numerous than he had anticipated, but that after three hours' fighting he had captured the whole camp, and had killed or made prisoners the greater portion of the defenders. As to the Pretender, he stated that he was not sure whether he was among the slain or among the fugitives, who were being closely pursued by his horsemen.

This report, dispatched in the first flush of victory by a General anxious to win his spurs and to advance in the favour of his master, may have been a little exaggerated.

The French Vice-Consul, who wrote a few hours later than my informants, confirmed the capture of the camp and its contents, but he added that the Sultan's forces had been surprised to find that its garrison was so small in number. M. Gaillard mentioned that the Pretender was flying eastwards to the Ghiata mountains, pursued by the horsemen of the Sultan.

Neither M. Gaillard, nor His Majesty's Vice-Consul, nor Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, appear to have had any doubt that the Pretender was at the camp; nor have I, nor I may add has my French colleague, received any indication which could lead us to suppose that our informants at Fez had any knowledge of the Pretender having moved to the north-west of Fez.

Still, in view of the astuteness hitherto shown by the Pretender, and the absence of any further details as to the fighting on the 29th ultimo, I considered I ought not to withhold from your Lordship the information which has been supplied to me, based, it is true, only on a private letter from Fez, and on the statement of a simple-minded and ignorant courier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 143.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 39. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 5, 1903.

LATE in the evening of the 3rd instant, I received a note from Messrs. Pariente, the Legation bankers, stating that they had succeeded in inducing the Bank of Spain to advance 2,000,000 dollars (about 300,000*l.*) to the Moorish Government without any guarantee.

Messrs. Pariente stated that the money would be advanced for six years, with interest at 6 per cent., plus a-half per cent. per quarter for expenses, commission, &c. The payment would begin after the first three years, and be by monthly instalments; the Tangier Customs undertaking to pay the interest and the reimbursement of the advances as they fall due.

Messrs. Pariente told me that they were sending these proposals to Fez by a special courier, who was to leave yesterday morning.

I am carrying out the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday by a courier who leaves this morning, and who, I trust, will arrive before the Moorish Government have closed with the offer made to them.

I had taken the precaution of requesting Kaïd Sir H. Maclean by a letter, which I sent by the courier of Messrs. Pariente, to suggest to the Minister of Finance from me that he should hold his hand till he heard further from me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 144.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 9. Confidential.)
My Lord Marquess, *Madrid, February* 6, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that during the last few weeks the course of affairs in Morocco has been followed here with the keenest interest, not to say anxiety. The defeat of the Pretender and his reported capture have afforded much satisfaction, and it is evident, as I have said before, that the country in general really dreads the disturbance of the *status quo*.

The very mischievous telegram which appeared in the "Times" of the 2nd February, under the heading of "France, England, and Morocco," has attracted some attention here; but it attracted less than I expected it to do; and the Spanish Government does not seem in any way troubled about the matter. As I informed your Lordship by telegram, Señor Abarzuza assured me that the Ministry was fully satisfied as to the incorrectness of the statements made in the telegram; and Señor Silvela took the opportunity to declare to the King, at a Council of Ministers, that he had entire confidence in the friendliness and loyalty of England.

Señor Abarzuza also informed me that in his opinion the telegram had not been sent from Madrid, and he more than hinted that it came from French sources. This accords with the information given to your Lordship by Sir E. Monson. I hope the incident will have no bad effect here.

A less satisfactory incident is the proposed grant of a Spanish loan to Morocco. I have referred to this in a separate despatch.

M. Cambon, the new French Ambassador, arrived a fortnight ago, and there is naturally some talk about the reasons for his appointment to Madrid in the place of M. Patenôtre. The general impression, I think, is that it indicates a more active policy on the part of France. I have not, however, heard or seen anything which leads me to believe that the Spaniards attach any serious importance to the change. One Madrid newspaper, the Republican "Pais," had a leading article a few days ago assuring its readers that a diplomatic duel of the fiercest description between the French and English Embassies was now about to begin. The birds of prey, it said, were wheeling in the air attracted by the scent of dead flesh—the flesh of Spain. But the "Pais" is apt to be rather lurid in its views and expressions. None of the other papers have written in the same sense. Señor Abarzuza is, I think, inclined to suspect the French Embassy of a tendency to make undesirable proposals regarding Morocco, but this suspicion has nothing to do with M. Cambon in particular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

No. 145.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No 10. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, February* 7, 1903.

I TELEGRAPHED to your Lordship on the 30th January and again yesterday about the proposed Spanish loan to Morocco.

This incident has somewhat shaken my faith in the Spanish Foreign Office, and I think it may be well if I write a few lines on the subject.

On Friday, the 30th January, when Señor Abarzuza received the Corps Diplomatique, I called as usual at the Ministerio de Estado. After some conversation about other things, Señor Abarzuza informed me that the Sultan of Morocco had asked the Bank of Spain for a loan, and that the Bank was inclined to agree. The proposal was, he said, to lend a sum equal to that already advanced by the French. The Spanish Government favoured this proposal, as they did not like the loan being entirely in French hands. At the same time, Señor Abarzuza wished in this, as in all else, to act in accord with England, and he had "stopped the loan" until he could speak to me. He asked me to ascertain, and let him know privately, the views of His Majesty's Government on the subject. He did not say in so many words that nothing more would be done until he received the answer, but this was what I understood. I thanked him, and promised to telegraph at once. He then spoke about some other matters, but as I was leaving the room he reverted to the loan, and asked me to let him have your Lordship's views as soon as I could.

During this interview Señor Abarzuza spoke in English, which he does not speak as fluently or as correctly as French, and it is just possible that I formed a wrong impression as to the proposed action of the Spanish Government, but I do not think so.

On receipt of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 16 and 17 of the 1st and 2nd February, I informed Señor Abarzuza of the contents of them. He did not reply, but on the night of the 4th February, when I met him at a reception at the Mexican Legation, he thanked me, and said that he supposed the project was for a gold and not a silver loan. I said I knew nothing more than I had told him.

Yesterday, having meanwhile received Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 43 of the 3rd February, I asked Señor Abarzuza to let me know the exact situation. He then informed me that the Bank of Spain was practically pledged to a silver loan of 10,000,000 pesetas, but that the Spanish Government would be glad to join, if possible, in a loan with France and England, either making the other transaction a part of the joint loan, or lending a further sum. He did not offer any explanation of the apparent precipitancy of the Spanish Bank after his request for the views of His Majesty's Government, but seemed rather embarrassed.

What has actually occurred I cannot say, but my impression is that, on the 30th January, Señor Abarzuza believed he had deferred the conclusion of the loan pending an answer from your Lordship, but that the Spanish Government did not support him, or that the Bank, which is very powerful, went on with the transaction independently. I do not think that he meant to deceive me, for he seems thoroughly straightforward, and, moreover, there was no object in his doing so. He was in no way bound to consult us before lending money to Morocco; and if the loan had been settled when he spoke to me, the fact was certain to come out very shortly.

I see that the "Liberal" of to-day has the following telegram from its correspondent in Tangier, dated the 6th February:—

"Although the Spanish Minister Plenipotentiary denies that there exists any scheme for a loan to Morocco, a statement which does honour to Señor Cologan's discretion, I have reasons to believe that the real truth of the matter is that the project has fallen through.

"Perhaps this is due to excessive haste on the part of the bankers, or to the fact that some indiscretion has been committed.

"There is no reason to be surprised that once the scheme for a loan had been divulged, the transaction should not have been carried out.

"In the case of the loans which Morocco has made with other countries, nothing has been known of them until they had been definitely contracted."

Whatever the facts may be, I am afraid that we cannot for the future place absolute reliance upon Señor Abarzuza in such cases. I do not myself entertain any doubt about his honesty of purpose, but he has apparently been overridden or tricked, and this may occur again.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

No. 146.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 52. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 13, 1903.

SIR H. MACLEAN has been informed by both the Sultan and the Minister of Finance that, until they hear from me, nothing further shall be done regarding loans.

Both of them object to obtaining a loan from Spain, but they will be guided by any advice we may give them.

The Minister of Finance says that the Moorish Government could not agree to any control over the customs revenues, and that no such security was asked for by the French bank.

No. 147.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 13, 1903.

I HAVE received news from Fez, dated the 9th instant, reporting that the Pretender's losses in the action of the 29th ultimo, were greater than were at first supposed.

Menebhi is slowly advancing towards the Pretender who, it appears, is a little to the west of Tanza where he has taken up a position.

It is possible that another action will have to be fought, endeavours to induce the tribes to surrender him having failed.

So far no serious opposition has been experienced by Menebhi who has a large force with him.

(Madrid informed.)

No. 148.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 13, 1903.

YOUR telegram of to-day, No. 52. You may tell the Moorish Government that neither we nor the French Government contemplate any arrangements involving the present control of the Moorish Customs, and also that, for political reasons and in their own interest, we consider it desirable that Spain should take part in the advances which are being made them.

Sir E. Cassel tells me that the nature of his offer must by this time be well known to the Legation bankers.

No. 149.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 40.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 6, 1903.

FURTHER letters which I have received from Fez give some additional details of the action on the 29th ultimo, which show that it nearly resulted in a serious repulse of the Sultan's forces, and that the courage and energy of the Minister of War saved the situation and won the day.

Kaïd Sir H. Maclean informs me that the Sultan told him that many tribes had already offered to submit, and that the submission would be accepted on certain conditions. His Majesty said that the tribes must pay a heavy indemnity and surrender a certain number of men from each village as hostages for their future good behaviour. His Majesty added that the tribes had expressed their readiness to accept any terms which he was pleased to impose.

The Minister of War was leaving Fez on the 3rd instant, at the head of a large force, to collect the indemnities and receive the hostages. He expected to be away from the capital for about four weeks.

The Moorish Government anticipate that the people with whom the Pretender has taken refuge will deliver him when the Minister of War approaches their district.

Sir H. Maclean further states that the Sultan has received letters from the tribes in Tafilelt and from the tribes in the Sûs, assuring His Majesty of their loyalty, and expressing their willingness to send large contingents to his assistance. His Majesty observed to Sir H. Maclean that he had no need of these reinforcements, but that he was much gratified to find that his subjects were so faithful.

It will be satisfactory to hear of the capture of the Pretender, so that all fear of a revival of the agitation may be laid aside. In any case, the recent victory on the part of the Sultan's forces and the submission of tribes in the neighbourhood of Fez will have considerably curtailed the powers of the Pretender for creating further disturbances.

It is to be hoped that the expedition of the Minister of War will meet with all the success which is expected of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 150.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 41.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 8, 1903.*

THE German Minister asked me on the 6th instant whether I had seen in the Spanish papers that a group of Spanish financiers were about to contract a loan with the Moorish Government. I told Baron de Mentzingen that I had not read the Spanish papers during the last day or two, and the subject then dropped.

As Mr. Abensur, of the firm of Messrs. Pariente and Co., had always told me that the Bank of Spain was the institution with which he had been negotiating for the loan, I wrote him a note to inquire whether any fresh parties had entered into the transaction. I beg leave to inclose copy of the reply which I received from him. The matter seems involved in some little obscurity.

It is possible that the Moorish Government will await a further communication from me before definitely accepting the terms offered by Mr. Abensur on behalf of the Spanish Bank or financial group, but I doubt if they will be disposed to postpone their decision for any prolonged period, as I understand they are in need of ready money. At the same time, they may object to pay practically 8 per cent. interest on the money which may be advanced to them by the Spanish Bank, and I daresay the undertakers of a joint loan would be able to supply funds on easier terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Mr. Abensur to Sir A. Nicolson.

Dear Sir Arthur, *Tangier, February 6, 1903.*

INDEED, I don't know yet the name of the party or parties who are to find the money for the loan offered to this Government.

The negotiations began through M. Nahon (who is the official agent of the Banco de España here), myself, with M. Cologan and the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Abarzuza, who up to the present never gave any name; M. Cologan thought it was either the Banco de España or the Government.

Now I see in the papers the names of Bauer, &c., and really could not say if these names are correct. M. Cologan does not know either.

I put in my Memorandum to Torres, that the loan is given with the consent of the Spanish Government—M. Cologan having also spoken to Torres about it—and that we will at the last moment give the name on whose behalf it is to be made.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) J. V. D. ABENSUR.

No. 151.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February 14, 1903.*

WHEN I called upon the Foreign Minister yesterday, he told me he had a matter of importance to communicate to me. He asked me to telegraph to your Lordship, confidentially, and to request an expression of your views. He proceeded to say that the French Ambassador had, before the fall of the late Liberal Government, proposed to the Spanish Foreign Office, that Morocco should be divided into two zones of influence. Spain, according to this arrangement, was to have the coast with a strip of hinterland, and the rest was to fall to France. Fez was to be included in the Spanish zone. At the time of the change of Government the French were pressing for an answer, and though the matter had been shelved for a time, it had now again been brought up. Señor Abarzuza informed me that he had warned the French Ambassador that he was averse from entering into any agreement of this nature, "without the knowledge and approval" of His Majesty's Government, but no formal answer had been given to the French proposals. Señor Abarzuza went on to say that he favoured strongly the maintenance of the *status quo* and desired to avoid the question of zones of influence till we were forced to consider it. The particular proposal appeared to him to be very unfavourable to Spain. Last of all he told me that he could say Great Britain objected to any arrangement of this nature, his hands would be greatly strengthened, he said what he really desired was a plain intimation that His Majesty's Government would "refuse to recognize" any such arrangement if it were made. This would enable him once for all to put an end to the matter. He expressed great surprise at M. Delcassé's action in proposing such a scheme.

After stating the views held by your Lordship, as explained in the accounts of your conversations with the French Ambassador, I promised to telegraph an account of our interview to your Lordship. Señor Abarzuza definitely assured me that till a reply was received from your Lordship he would give no answer to the French Ambassador. He requested that the matter should be looked upon as confidential. He spoke in English and the words in inverted commas are the actual words he used.

The impression that he made upon me was that he felt uncertain as to the attitude of his colleagues.

No. 152.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February 14, 1903.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 21 of the 9th instant, on the subject of the Morocco loan, I have the honour to inform you that last night the Spanish Foreign Minister begged me to convey to you his thanks for your courteous communication. He said that a telegram to the same effect had now been received from the Spanish Ambassador, and that he thought the best course for him to pursue would be to wait till the views of the French Foreign Office were known, when, if they accepted the proposal, he would make a communication to the Spanish banks.

No. 153.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 14, 1903.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 11 of yesterday's date, a communication has been received from Mr. Stern by Messrs. Pariente.

The latter have to-day written to the Minister of Finance offering to advance 300,000*l.* on the same terms exactly as those arranged between the Paris bank and the Moorish Government.

The instructions referred to in your Lordship's telegram referred to above have been carried out.

No. 154.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 15, 1903.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding telegram No. 54 of yesterday's date, I think it possible that the Moorish Government will be desirous of knowing the name of the individual or bank who will make the loan.

Messrs. Pariente have merely said an "English firm." Should Mr. Stern's name or that of Sir E. Cassel be given, or should the contract be made in the name of Messrs. Pariente?

No. 155.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) P, *Tangier, February* 15, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 36, I have learnt that the arrangement made with the French Bank is that the repayments should be made at 6,000*l.*, and not 12,000*l.* a-month, as I was informed in the first instance.

The repayments will begin on the 1st January, 1905.

No. 156.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 16, 1903.

PLEASE convey to Señor Abarzuza the thanks of His Majesty's Government for the confidence which he has shown in us, as reported in your Excellency's telegram No. 14 of the 14th February. You may inform his Excellency that His Majesty's Government consider the co-operation of Spain and Great Britain in regard to the Morocco question to be a matter of the utmost importance, and you should express the hope that our action in regard to the loan has convinced the Spanish Government of this.

We are entirely in accord with his Excellency's views, and I have repeatedly informed the French Ambassador that His Majesty's Government are unwilling to enter into any negotiations based upon the eventual partition of the Moorish Empire. At the same time, if any such arrangement were made without our knowledge we should, of course, refuse to recognize it.

No. 157.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 42. Confidential.)
Tangier, February 9, 1903.

My Lord,

KAID Sir H. Maclean informs me that the Sultan wished to communicate to me the following difficulty in which he was placed:—

Some time ago His Majesty caused a message to be sent to the French Minister asking that the consent of the French Government should no longer be deferred to the new internal taxes.

M. Saint René Taillandier replied that he would send M. Descos, the First Secretary of Legation, to Fez to discuss the question with the Moorish Government.

M. Descos arrived recently at Fez with the new French Military Mission, and has informed the Moorish Government that the French Government will only agree to the taxation scheme on condition that the Shereefs of Wazzan and all their followers are exempted from the payment of taxes; and that certain concessions are made in regard to certain market dues on the Algerian frontier.

The latter condition the Sultan says he has no difficulty in granting; but that it is impossible for him to agree to the former.

His Majesty tells me that he is desirous of applying the new taxes to everyone without any distinction, and that he intends that all his own brothers and near relations should pay in the same way as all his subjects.

The Shereefs, with their followers, constitute a very considerable number of people, with numerous farms throughout the country; and the whole scheme would be wrecked were he to consent to their being placed in a privileged position. His Majesty added that he cannot allow another year to pass without collecting any internal revenue, and he finds himself in a great dilemma.

He asked Kaïd Maclean to request me to give him my opinion with as little delay as possible.

I have asked Sir H. Maclean to state to the Sultan that I quite appreciate the difficulty in which he is placed, and the importance of the question; but that I was scarcely in a position to give an opinion off-hand as to what course His Majesty might pursue. In the meantime, I suggested that perhaps it would not be misplaced if His Majesty explained to M. Descos his view of the question and the importance to his country of its speedy settlement. His Majesty might point out that all the Powers had agreed to the new taxes being applied to their own native-born subjects, and that he himself wished to bring his own near relations within the provisions of the scheme, and it would, therefore, in these circumstances, be somewhat inconsistent if a certain class of protected persons and their numerous adherents were exempted from a project which His Majesty was anxious should be of universal application.

It was possible that a personal explanation somewhat of the above nature might have some effect.

I have not intimated to the Sultan that I have communicated the above to your Lordship; but I should be grateful if I could be furnished with your Lordship's views as to whether I could suggest any steps to His Majesty which might assist him in his present difficulties. The Wazzan Shereefs assert, I believe, that they have hitherto, by Shereefian Firmans, been exempted from all taxation, and it may be difficult for the Sultan and, indeed, also for the French authorities to induce them to forego what they may consider to be an established and immemorial right.

Perhaps some arrangement might be made by which the Shereefs should pay a fixed sum annually in the form of tribute, and which should be taken in lieu of the taxes.

I hesitate, however, to make any definite proposal to His Majesty until I am favoured with your Lordship's views.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 158.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 10, 1903.

THE Sultan was good enough to show to His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez one or two letters which were captured in the tent of the Pretender, and His Majesty allowed Mr. Macleod to take photographs of them. I beg leave to inclose translation of one of these documents, which appears to be the draft of a Circular to certain villages, calling upon them to join the Pretender's forces. The Circular states that the Pretender intends to "combat the seller of the land of the Moslems to the unbelievers," which may allude to the cession of territories in the Tuat district, or may be a general expression to designate the necessity of resisting the opening of the country to European enterprise.

Sir H. Maclean informs me that Cid Mehedi-el-Menebhi left Fez on the 5th instant for the Taza district, and has every hope of being able to secure the person of the Pretender.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 158.

Draft Circular.

(Translation.)
PRAISE to God alone. Pray to God for Mahommed and his family and companions, &c., Rubric of Mahommed, &c. (rest undecypherable).

To the servants of the Shereefian Court and the helpers of God's religion, in truth and sincerity, our friends, the whole of the Kabila Ahl (blank space left for name).

May God be favourable to you, and peace be upon you and the mercy of God by the blessings of our Lord the Apostle of God. It is not hidden from you that we have the intention to rise and combat the seller of the land of the Mussulman to their enemies the unbelievers, and you will be the first to occupy yourselves with this, old and young, by your valour and obedience to your faith and resolution and the absence of deceit among you high and low. God will perpetuate your power; therefore, on receipt of this letter, present yourselves to our Shereefian Court, horsemen and foot, with your arms and provisions for yourselves—leaving in the villages only the infirm and the young, and these shall remain; and the people of the villages, old and young, mentioned in the margin, are to assemble at the village of Beni Megara early on Saturday, all except the said villages shall join us, wherever we may be, promptly on Thursday.

(Compliments.)

Our Shereefian command to this effect is issued.

[*Date illegible*], 1320.

No. 159.

Sir M. Gosselin to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 14. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Lisbon, February* 10, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 12 and 13 of the 26th ultimo and the 7th instant respectively, I have the honour to report that Senhor Mattoso Santos, who dined at this Legation last evening, told me that from the accounts he had received from Senhor Martens Ferrão, the Portuguese Minister at Tangiers, he was satisfied that there was no longer any fear of an outburst of fanaticism in the coast towns of Morocco. The Portuguese Government have consequently recalled the "Dona Amelia" from Gibraltar, and he had told the Minister of War two days ago that the services of the 3,000 troops, who had been held in readiness in case of necessity, would no longer be required for service abroad.

His Excellency, alluding to the issue of the Portuguese negotiations with China —which is still more or less of a grievance—said that he had no intention of allowing the King's Government to be caught napping again; that with regard to the Moorish question, one of very serious interest to the trade of the Algarves, it was well to be prepared for every eventuality; and that for this reason he had requested his colleague of the War Department to hold a force in readiness, should their services be required.

Senhor Mattoso Santos added that the last reports he had received from Paris confirmed the opinion that whatever might be the ulterior aims of the French Government, M. Delcassé was for the present sincerely desirous of maintaining the *status quo*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 160.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February* 17, 1903.

THE substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 23 has been to-day communicated to the Foreign Minister by me. He said the position was made quite clear by your Lordship's answer, which would be of great help. He asked me to thank your Lordship, and appeared much gratified.

No. 161.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 18, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 13 of to-day's date.

The information given by Mr. Harris, as reported by Mr. White in his despatch No. 103 of the 18th July last, was discredited subsequently by Sir H. Maclean, and I am inclined to doubt its accuracy, but I will cause further inquiries to be made.

It is, I understand, on the ground of Firmans granted by a former Sultan that the Shereefs of Wazzan claim exemption from taxation.

No. 162.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1903.

YOUR despatch No. 42 of the 9th instant.

Can you obtain any further information as to the grounds on which the Shereefs of Wazzan and their followers base their claim to exemption from taxation? (See Mr. White's despatch No. 102 of the 18th July, 1902.)

It is difficult, without further knowledge on this point, to form any opinion as to the course we should pursue in the matter.

No. 163.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1903.

IN reply to your telegram No. 55 of the 15th instant, I have to state that Sir E. Cassel, whom I have consulted, thinks that it would be better to use the expression "an influential English firm," and not to give the name of any person or firm at present.

No. 164.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 44.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 13, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting on the general situation and on the movements of the forces under the Minister of War.

Kaïd Sir H. Maclean informs me that Ci Mehedi-el-Menebhi reports that he had been compelled to attack some of the hill-tribes, and that he had defeated and severely punished them. Statements have appeared in the local press here that the forces of the Minister of War have been considerably diminished by numerous desertions; but Sir H. Maclean assures me that there is no truth in these assertions.

The Ghiata tribes apparently have declined to listen to any overtures for the surrender of the Pretender; so presumably they will resist by force any attempt to seize him.

I may mention that the Minister of War told Sir H. Maclean that the losses on the side of the Government in the action of the 29th January were 80 killed and 120 wounded. The casualties among the followers of the Pretender were, according to Mr. Macleod's information, more numerous than was at first believed.

The Sultan informed Sir H. Maclean that the Pretender had been severely wounded; but I think this report requires further corroboration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 164.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 29.)
Sir, *Fez, February* 9, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that the whole of the forces engaged on the Sultan's side in the capture of the Pretender's camp on the 29th January were subsequently assembled in what was practically one body at Metafi, and close to Sboo Bridge.

Distribution and a sale of the loot took place, and on the 3rd instant the Minister of War, Cid Mehdi-el-Menebhi, accompanied by the Master of the Ceremonies, Kaïd Dris Beniaish, moved into north-west Hiaina by very short stages, and has since been punishing that district in the usual manner.

During the week ended to-day about 100 prisoners altogether from Hiaina have been sent to Fez and some six heads.

So extensive, however, has been the plundering of granaries that wheat and barley have dropped in consequence of the large quantities from Hiaina reaching this market to 23 rm. and 12 rm. the Fez mood from 26 rm. and 16 rm. respectively.

From all accounts the Hiaina people are now in active negotiation for pardon, and are willing to form the advance guard of the forces to attack the Abl Tahir district of Ghiata, where the Pretender is still holding out.

Inclosed I beg to send a photo map,* which summarizes the position to-day so far as I can ascertain it. The map (Flotte de Roquevaires') which I use is the best

* Not reproduced.

I know of Morocco generally, but even it gives only an approximate idea of the Hiaina district, that region never having been minutely mapped. Europeans, indeed, have scarcely ever visited it; I can, therefore, only indicate the position very roughly, but still I am confident the markings are, at any rate, not essentially misleading.

I have heard privately that it was reported at Tangier that the Pretender had been in Sheraga lately, and after the 29th January with a large following. This report, I am certain, was unfounded, and I should think was probably first started by the hostilities between the Sheraga and their Governor, and coloured by their subsequent fighting against Hiaina in co-operation with the Sultan's troops.

The photo. map herewith shows roughly the districts still remaining more or less under the Pretender's influence.

So far as I can discern it, the Government's plan of action seems to be to thoroughly subdue, and perhaps to break up and redistribute, the Hiaina tribe, and thereafter to do the same with Ghiata, if practicable. This, if carried out, will of course take some time—the more so as the Sultan will require the co-operation of the tribes north and east of the disaffected districts which Sidi Mohd.-el-Amrani and Muley Arafa have gone to reorganize.

To revert to the Pretender's defeat on the 29th January, I have to state that from subsequent inquiries I have ascertained that the number of the killed on his side was much larger than the number of heads brought here indicated.

The Hiaina tribesmen on this occasion acted towards Bu Hamara's followers in much the same way, or even more venomously, as they did to the Government fugitives from Tafaza.

From 100 to 200 Branes and Tsul tribesmen were robbed and murdered on their way homewards through Hiaina on the 29th January, and besides these I learn that from 50 to 100 of the Pretender's followers, who were killed on the spot of the defeat by Berber contingents on the Sultan's side, were not decapitated.

The prisoners taken on the 29th January included the Mukuddam of a Zaouia of Muley Dris in Ghiata, who professes to have been Bu Hamara's right-hand man, but who has now offered his services to the Sultan, and, under guard, of course, accompanies the Minister of War on the present expedition.

Two things at least have become very clear during the last few days: (1) that the Beni Warain have quite failed to induce Ghiata to surrender Bu Hamara; and (2) that the mountain tribes north of Hiaina Tsul and Branes are entirely hostile to the Pretender.

The victory has had an excellent effect in this city and neighbourhood in dispelling the ideas of the Pretender's possibly possessing supernatural powers, which were afloat amongst the most ignorant classes.

In the streets now one hears nothing but derision of Bu Hamara, and the victory has undoubtedly put new confidence into the Sultan's troops and the tribesmen supporting them.

A large contingent of levies from South Morocco, principally Dukalla, and amounting, by common report, to about 2,000 horse and foot, arrived on the 7th instant, and have been dispatched to join the Minister of War's horse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 165.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February* 21, 1903.

THE following has been sent to His Majesty's Representative at Tangier.

I am told by Señor Abarzuza that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs has been persuaded by the French Ambassador in London that the Morocco question is of no interest to England, and that Spain and France can proceed, with safety, to deal as they please with the country.

His Excellency asserts that he has endeavoured to combat this view, which has become prevalent in Madrid, but owing to the positive character of M. Cambon's

assurances he finds this a hard task. His Excellency declared that personally he was quite aware that on account of our position in the Mediterranean Morocco must have great importance for England, and he added that without the full knowledge and co-operation of England, nothing would induce him to agree to the partition of that country into zones of influence.

No. 166.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1903.

YOUR Excellency's telegram No. 17 of to-day.

Please inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the strongest possible terms that there is absolutely no foundation for the reports that have reached him.

His Majesty's Government could not tolerate any attempt to settle the question of Morocco which did not take proper regard of British interests. This is fully borne out by the action which we are taking as to the loan question.

No. 167.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February* 24, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship with reference to your telegram No. 24, that I have called upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and have assured him of the absolute want of foundation of the reports which have reached him.

He replied that what I told him gave him much satisfaction, and he took down the words I used. I then informed him privately that no attempt on the part of France to deal with Morocco in disregard to our interests would be tolerated by us. He assured me that he was very much pleased to hear it and thought we were quite right.

He informs me that the statement made by the French to the effect that no objection will be raised by England to the division of Morocco into zones of influence, is steadily insisted on by them, and that they say they have proposed or are about to propose the neutralization of Tangier, which to their certain knowledge is all that England requires. Our interview ended by my telling him what your Lordship had said to M. Cambon with regard to these points on the 15th October, 1902.

No. 168.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 25, 1903.

I AM informed by Messrs. Pariente that they have just received news from Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres that, as the Moorish Government are not now in urgent need of more money, they do not require the Spanish loan.

This decision surprises me, as it should have been known to the Moorish Government on the 18th instant that we consider it desirable in their own interests that they should accept the Spanish loan.

I hear that the agent of the Paris [?Bank] has been urging the local authorities here to persuade the Moorish Government to apply to his own bank instead of to Spain for any further advances.

No. 169.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 104. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, February* 25, 1903.

AN article, which appeared in the "Standard" of the 20th instant, and which had been telegraphed from Paris by the correspondent of that paper, professing to give, on authority, a sketch of proposals made to your Lordship by M. Cambon for the eventual partition of Morocco, and stating that your Lordship had admitted the paramount claims of France in that Empire, has naturally caused a certain sensation among my colleagues.

Count Tornielli, the Italian Ambassador, called upon me the day before yesterday and said that M. Cambon had apparently renewed in London the proposals which he made when French Ambassador at Madrid at the beginning of the Regency of Queen Maria Christina, when it was understood that he submitted to Her Majesty a map indicating such a division of the territory of Morocco as has now been quoted as corresponding to the views of M. Delcassé. Count Tornielli was very anxious to know whether it was true that your Lordship had given a general acquiescence to these proposals.

I said that while I believed that it was true that M. Cambon had spoken to your Lordship of the eventual "liquidation" of Morocco, I was perfectly certain that you had never acquiesced in such a partition of that country, as was alluded to in the "Standard," and that I was equally sure that His Majesty's Government would never allow any arrangements to be made in connection with the ultimate destiny of Morocco without vindicating their claim to be consulted. I was also inclined to think that your Lordship considered the raising of this question to be premature.

Prince Radolin, the German Ambassador, also came to me and mentioned the subject, saying that he did not believe in the accuracy of the statements in the "Standard," because whenever M. Delcassé had mentioned Morocco to him, he had said that it was far too big a question to be precipitated by any action of France.

I answered Prince Radolin that M. Delcassé had always used the same language to me; but that, as a matter of fact, his Excellency had not referred to the future of Morocco in any conversation with me for some years past.

I believe that Mr. Farman, the correspondent of the "Standard" in Paris, has occasional access to M. Delcassé himself. He is, at any rate, a frequenter of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and I cannot doubt that the intelligence which he telegraphed to London about French intentions towards Morocco was officially inspired. Indeed, after reading Sir M. Durand's telegram to your Lordship No. 17 of the 21st instant, it is impossible not to see that such is the case.

I saw M. Delcassé this afternoon, but Morocco was not referred to in our conversation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Annex.

Extract from an Article in the "Standard" of February 20, 1903.

FRENCH CLAIMS IN MOROCCO.—M. Delcassé knows that if Morocco is a vital question for the French Republic, and if France desires that the Straits of Gibraltar should always be open to the commerce of the whole world, Great Britain is also justified in requiring that the African shore of those straits shall not be fortified. The paramount interest of France in Morocco is, he believes, recognized by the British Government. It has, indeed, been affirmed that, when the matter was referred to in a conversation between the French Ambassador in London and the British Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lord Lansdowne had no hesitation in admitting it. However that may be, M. Delcassé, who is very far from wishing to precipitate events, and who is not anxious to have to undertake a campaign of which he clearly perceives the difficulties and dangers, is desirous of avoiding the possibility of future misunderstandings with

a good neighbour, and of strengthening the cordial relations with England by a well-defined accord with her concerning Morocco. Should that be possible, M. Delcassé would, in the name of France, exclude from her claims a band of territory along the African coast of the Straits of Gibraltar, and would give every possible guarantee that might be required that no sort of fortifications should ever be constructed on it. That kind of neutral zone might extend, say, from Tangier to Ceuta, and its administration might be confided to Spain, which already possesses Settlements there. Of course, such an arrangement—which would leave France a free hand in Morocco, and of which the above may be taken as a rough outline of the French view—is capable of modification and additions, especially in the form of compensations for England; but it could not be made hastily. However, I am well aware that, in M. Delcassé's opinion, it is, in questions of vital importance, such as that of Morocco, better for France to speak out clearly. By that means misapprehensions and conflicts are more likely to be avoided than by a tortuous policy.

To sum up, France desires to be left a free hand in Morocco, the ultimate possession of which she regards as a vital necessity for the safety and homogeneousness of her North African Empire. Recognizing the position of England at Gibraltar, she would not only consent to the neutralization of a band of territory on the African coast of the Straits, but would give every guarantee against the fortification of that neutral zone. If such an arrangement could be concluded, the French Republic would not be desirous of at once commencing a campaign for the conquest of the country, but would, on the contrary, rather seek to demonstrate to the Moorish tribes—of which so many almost entirely ignore the authority of the Sultan—that it is to their interest to place themselves under the protection of the French Republic. As I have stated, M. Delcassé does not wish to precipitate events, but to have his hands free in Morocco, and to avoid the possibility of future complications—and, perhaps, even conflicts—with European Powers.

No. 170.

M. Cambon to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 26.)

(Privée et Confidentielle.) *Ambassade de France, Londres, le 26 Février, 1903.*

Cher Lord Lansdowne,

J'AI reçu votre lettre du 5 courant relative à un projet d'entente entre certaines banques Françaises, Anglaises, et Espagnoles, pour une opération financière au Maroc.

Dans le cas où ce projet se réaliserait, je suis autorisé à vous assurer de la conformité de nos vues.

Votre sincèrement dévoué,
(Signé) PAUL CAMBON.

No. 171.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February 27, 1903.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding telegram (No. 58 of the 25th February):

Señor de Cologan, the Spanish Minister here, has informed me that he does not propose to consider the Moorish Government's refusal as final.

He is anxious that the Moorish Government should open a current account in Madrid, as he is convinced, from what he gathers from M. Saint Réné Taillandier and others, that France is desirous of obtaining sole control over the loans, and that she will not agree to a joint loan.

He has received instructions to work in conjunction with me, and he is aware that an offer from an English firm is under the Moorish Government's consideration. With your Lordship's permission, I should like to be frank with Señor de Cologan without, of course, mentioning names or going into detail unnecessarily; but, up to the present, I have avoided saying anything to him about the offer from the English firm.

May I tell him that negotiations as to an English offer are proceeding with the Moorish Government, and that we have strongly recommended them to accept the offer from Spain as well.

Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, I may add, is pressing the advisability of accepting the Spanish offer on the Minister of Finance.

No. 172.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 85. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 27, 1903.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 62 of the 11th instant, I inclose herewith copy of a Private and Confidential letter which I have received from the French Ambassador in reply to that which I addressed to his Excellency on the 5th instant in regard to the question of a joint loan to the Moorish Government by certain British, French, and Spanish banks.*

M. Cambon, as your Excellency will perceive, has been authorized to assure me that the views of the French Government are in accord with those of His Majesty's Government on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 173.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February 28, 1903.*

CONFIDENTIAL information has reached me that a German group, or firm, had offered the Moorish Government a loan of 300,000*l.*, and that they are disposed to close with the offer.

It may be that this German proposal is the reason why the Spanish offer has been refused by the Moorish Government.

No news about the German proposal has reached me from Fez; but I am of opinion that the information I have been furnished with is, in all probability, correct, as Baron von Mentzingen has shown the greatest interest in all matters relating to a loan.

He has received no information on the subject whatever from me.

No. 174.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February 28, 1903.*

YOUR telegram of yesterday No. 59.

His Majesty's Government cannot urge the Moorish Government to borrow more money than they require, but we shall press for Spanish participation in any further loan operations that may become necessary.

We have throughout the negotiations kept the Spanish Government generally informed of our views, and there is no objection to your being equally open with the Spanish Minister within the limits you propose.

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* No. 170.

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No. 175.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 2.)

(No. 46.)
My Lord,

Tangier, February 19, 1903.

I HAVE received from Fez during the last few days no news of any special interest, nor have I been furnished with any information which would assist towards establishing the identity of the Pretender. This latter personage is said to have now moved, with some of the Ghiata tribe, to a place called Bu Tabur, in the Tsul district. I have not been able to ascertain the number of adherents who still remain with him, and it is difficult to judge of the effect which his recent reverse may have produced on his followers. His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez states that he is inclined to believe that the reports of the Pretender having been wounded in the action of the 29th January are well founded, and mentions that he is said to have received a gun-shot wound in the left shoulder, but not of a serious nature.

The Minister of War is proceeding with the castigation of those of the Hiayna tribe who declined to submit, and will probably soon enter the territory where the Pretender has established himself.

There have been many rumours current, both in Fez and Tangier, that numerous desertions from the forces of the Minister of War had taken place; but his Excellency has indignantly denied that such has been the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 176.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 2.)

(No. 47. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Tangier, February 21, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of the letter which Messrs. Pariente addressed to the Moorish Minister of Finance in regard to the loan which the Moorish Government are desirous of contracting in England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Messrs. Pariente to Mohammed Tazzi.

(Translation.)

February 14, 1903.

I HAVE to inform you that some of our friends in London are prepared to make a loan to the Shereefian Government of a sum of 300,000*l.* your Excellency had requested. The interest, guarantee, terms, &c., shall all be the same as for the French loan, word for word, without any addition or deduction, so that the Contract for the loan shall be on the same conditions as that of the French in every respect; and if in any subsequent loan, concluded with the French or others, any further guarantees are given, the lenders in this loan shall have the right thereto also. The agent for the Contractors of this loan is our house at Tangier, and as soon as we receive the Shereefian order to make the Contract with us, if the loan is required, we will disclose the name of our principals. It is our duty to inform you that the sale of a considerable sum in gold for Spanish silver at a moment's notice is very difficult, as the trade of the town is small, and would require a long time to effect. Should your Excellency wish to sell a portion of it in Spain and have the silver sent to Tangier, we are prepared to undertake it, and sell the gold in the Spanish banks without remuneration.

No. 177.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 3, 1903.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 13 of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the claim of the Shereefs of Wazzan to exemption from taxation is based on Firmans granted to them by the Sultan. They also state that were they to submit to taxation their dignity would suffer.

His Shereefian Majesty admits that the Firmans granted to the Shereefs of Wazzan by former Sultans have been confirmed by him, but he states that the same was done in the case of other Shereefs and of His Majesty's own relatives.

The argument of the Sultan is that since his taxation scheme is a new departure, the Firmans granted by him do not apply to the new system.

It has been suggested to His Majesty that he should issue a Royal Decree cancelling all firmans giving exemption from taxation, and His Majesty seems inclined to adopt the idea.

The course suggested above appears to me to be most unwise, as the Sultan would, by adopting it, bring himself into open conflict with all the Shereefs. It would seem that the negotiations which have been proceeding between the Sultan and M. Descos, the Secretary to the French Legation who is now at Fez, have led to no result.

His Majesty is much distressed and he fears that he will have to recur to the old method of raising taxes, though he is most unwilling to do so.

I think it better not to mention that I have consulted your Lordship, and I have not done so.

It is necessary that some taxes should be raised this year, and I think that I might suggest to His Majesty that he should not issue the Royal Decree rescinding the Firmans granted to the Shereefs; but that he should leave over the question as to applying the system of taxation to foreign subjects and persons enjoying foreign protection, and put it into force as regards his own subjects.

Persons in the former category were exempted under the old system from taxation, and perhaps some arrangement to the satisfaction of all parties may be found in the course of a year.

No. 178.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 3, 1903.

YOUR telegram No. 61 of yesterday.

The issue of a Royal Decree by the Sultan rescinding the Firmans exempting the Shereefs from taxation might at the present moment seriously aggravate the difficulties which he has to contend with, and there can be no objection to your advising His Majesty unofficially against such a step.

You should, however, be careful not to make His Majesty's Government responsible for any fiscal arrangements which he may adopt.

No. 179.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 4.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 4, 1903.

M. SAINT RENÉ TAILLANDIER has received news from M. Gaillard, the French Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting that the adherents of the Pretender attacked, on the night of the 25th February, 1903, the camp of the advance column of the forces

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under the Minister of War; the column suffered heavily, many being made prisoners and losing several killed. According to other reports the Government forces eventually repulsed the attack, but as yet I myself have not received any news on this subject. Nevertheless, this would show that the Pretender is again active.

Above message sent to His Majesty's Representative at Madrid.

No. 180.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March 4, 1903.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 60 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Spanish offer for a loan has been finally refused by the Moorish Government, who state that better terms are offered them in other quarters. I have heard that the Moorish Government have received offers of loan at 4 per cent., but whence these offers have emanated I have not been informed.

No. 181.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March 5, 1903.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 62 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that I have received a letter from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, informing me that Cid Mehedi el Menebhi, the Minister of War, has reported that the forces of the Pretender attacked his camp on the night of the 25th February, the attack was repulsed, and on the 26th February, the Government forces attacked the positions occupied by the enemy.

The rebels were completely defeated, but the Pretender himself made good his escape.

I have informed Sir M. Durand.

No. 182.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 24, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 30 of the 29th ultimo: The German Minister informs me this morning that Muley Amrani and Muley Arafa are both at a place close to Melilla, neither having as yet shown any disposition to proceed either to Oojdah or to the Riff districts. The German captain of the Moorish steamer, the "El Turkie," gave Baron de Mentzingen the above information, he having just returned from landing the former of those personages.

I am informed by the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan that two tribes on the border of the Riff district are fighting among themselves, and I understand that the disposition among the Riff tribes is not such as to encourage either of the Sultan's uncles to venture among them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 183.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 49. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 25, 1903.*

MM. PARIENTE, the Legation bankers, informed me this afternoon that the Sultan's Deputy had told them that the Moorish Government would not accept the offer made by a Spanish group for an advance of 300,000*l.* (2,000,000 dollars), as they were at present in no further need of money.

This decision on the part of the Moorish Government is unexpected, as it had always been understood that, owing to their financial embarrassment they were in need of very considerable advances. No taxes were collected last year, and the heavy extraordinary expenditure to which the Government have recently been put had, so it was stated, depleted the Treasury. At one time, if my information was correct, the Government were anxious to borrow some 800,000*l.*, and were casting about for the means of obtaining this sum.

It is true that they have not, as yet, exhausted the credit opened for them at the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, and the prospect of obtaining a loan in England may have diminished their anxieties in regard to the immediate future. Moreover, the terms offered by the Spanish group were a little more onerous than those which were arranged with the Paris bank, and there is a further disinclination on the part of the Moorish Government to be under any obligation to Spain.

As the negotiations and proposals as to the various loans have been a little complicated, I trust your Lordship will permit me to record, in a condensed form, the action which I have taken in the matter of the Spanish proposals.

On the 28th January I informed your Lordship, by telegraph, that the Spanish bank was ready to advance 300,000*l.* to the Moorish Government on certain conditions, and on the 31st January I reported that some little difficulties had arisen in connection with that question. On the 3rd February, however, these difficulties appeared to have been overcome, and I telegraphed that the Legation bankers were dispatching a special courier to Fez, communicating the offer from the Spanish group for an advance of the above-mentioned sum, and I asked whether any steps should be taken to delay the assent of the Moorish Government in case the Spanish proposal should clash with the negotiations which were then proceeding for a joint loan from Great Britain, France, and Spain. In conformity with your Lordship's instructions I caused the Minister of Finance to be confidentially informed that it might be wise if the Moorish Government did not too hastily accept an isolated offer from one bank until they saw whether a joint arrangement would not be more favourable to their interests.

On the receipt of a telegram from your Lordship on the 10th instant, informing me of the possibility of a loan being granted by an English firm, I inquired whether I might suggest to the Moorish Government that if an English offer were made they should accept it, and that as to the Spanish offer they should decide for themselves whether they should entertain it also. Your Lordship was good enough to reply that such a course appeared to be a proper one, and on the 12th instant I conveyed an intimation to the Moorish Government to that effect.

On the 13th instant I telegraphed to your Lordship that the Moorish Government showed some disinclination to obtain a loan from Spain, and on the same day I was instructed that it was desirable, in the interests of the Moorish Government, that Spain should have a share in the loans which the Sultan was desirous of obtaining.

On the 14th instant I, consequently, dispatched a special courier to Fez, who arrived there on the 18th instant, conveying this advice, and I requested my intermediary to transmit the message to the Minister of Finance. Since then I have heard no news from Fez as regards the Spanish offer.

I have ventured to trouble your Lordship with this résumé of what has passed so that there may be no misunderstanding as to the action of this Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 184.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 50.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 27, 1903.

ACCORDING to information which I have received through His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, the tranquillity which has hitherto existed throughout the southern districts of Morocco appears to have been recently disturbed by the revolt of the tribes in the Shiadma Province lying between Saffi and Mogador. The Governor of this province is at present with the Court, but his Deputy, after some days' fighting, has been driven from his district, and has fled, with his family, to Saffi. It is stated that the tribes looted the house of the Deputy-Governor and carried off all his property. The causes of these disturbances appear to be purely local, but Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot, who reports the occurrence to Mr. Maclean, fears that other districts may follow the example of Shiadma.

The absence of all the Provincial Governors from their districts, as they were all summoned to the Court, and the knowledge that the Central Government have themselves some serious difficulties to preoccupy them, have encouraged turbulent spirits. Moreover, I understand that the peasantry are becoming anxious as to the harvest prospects owing to the want of rain, and are inclined to be restless and discontented.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 185.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 52. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 27, 1903.

THE offer made by an English firm to advance 300,000*l.* to the Moorish Government on precisely the same terms as those arranged with the French bank was communicated to the Minister of Finance. The necessary documents were drawn up by his Excellency and submitted to the Sultan, who approved of the project, and gave his assent without any delay. These documents have been forwarded to me, and I have communicated a translation of them to the agent of the English firm, who is at present at Tangier.

There was some misunderstanding, perfectly innocent, I do not doubt, at Fez as to the procedure which should have been followed, and matters were hastened to a conclusion before certain very necessary formalities had been accomplished. These errors can, however, be rectified; and when the matter is placed on a perfect business footing, I will report further to your Lordship. As matters now stand, the Sultan has formally accepted the offer, and, though certain alterations will have to be made in the documents, the engagement of His Majesty is binding and effective. The only point, I understand, in which the conditions differ from those granted to the Paris bank, is that the repayments of the advances should commence at the termination of four instead of two years. This will have to be remedied, and the terms as to repayments made exactly similar.

I understand that the matter was pushed hastily forward at Fez, as it was feared that the Paris bank would hear of the impending transactions and offer further advances, possibly even on easier conditions than those on which it made its original loan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 186.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 53. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 28, 1903.

THE Spanish Minister mentioned to me yesterday that he had been much surprised to learn from the Sultan's Deputy that the Moorish Government had declined to accept the offer which had been made to them by a Spanish group of financiers for an advance of

2,000,000 dollars (300,000*l.*). M. de Cologan remarked that he did not intend to regard this refusal as final; and he considered that it was most desirable that the Moorish Government should not depend for financial assistance on French firms alone. He thought that they would do wisely in opening current accounts in London and Madrid, as they had done in Paris; and if they were not in immediate want of money they need not draw on the credits which were opened for them. He knew that the Moorish Government were desirous of procuring advances from an English firm, and he was glad that this was the case. At the same time, he considered it was desirable that the Spanish offer should not be rejected.

From what he had gathered from some observations of the French Minister, and from other sources, he was convinced that the French bank, and, indeed, the French Government, were desirous of securing the monopoly in advancing money to the Moorish Government; and the agent of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas had already offered to supply the Moorish Treasury with all the funds that might be required.

His own Minister for Foreign Affairs had informed him of the communications which had been passing between London and Madrid; and he knew that his Government desired to act in accord with that of His Majesty in the matter of loans. He had spoken frankly to me on the subject, as he wished to co-operate with me on these questions.

Owing to the position in which the negotiations as regards the English loan are at present, I hesitated to go into this question with M. de Cologan; and I, therefore, confined myself to general observations in regard to my desire to act with him in all questions affecting Morocco, stating that I knew that in doing so I should be carrying out the wishes of my Government.

I should be grateful, nevertheless, to receive from your Lordship permission to be frank with my Spanish colleague with respect to the loan negotiations, without unnecessarily giving him too much detailed information, as I should not like him to consider that I maintained a reserved attitude while he was anxious to be open and friendly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 187.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1903.

LORD ESHER has communicated to me certain messages from Sir E. Cassel respecting the present state of the negotiations for a loan to the Moorish Government. Sir E. Cassel suggested that you should inform the Moorish Government that Kaïd Maclean had no authority from him for his action.

He proposed to instruct his agent, M. Leonhardt, to conclude a loan on the same conditions as the Banque de Paris, for which purpose the Moorish Government should be asked for a copy of their contract with the French Bank, and a declaration to the effect that it is the sole contract. In the event of the Moorish Government being unable to give again precisely the same security, *i.e.*, if the French have a first mortgage, then his agent should be authorized to accept the best security which, under the circumstances, the Moorish Government can give. Sir E. Cassel further asked that you should be instructed to send some one from the Legation to accompany his agent to Fez.

In my reply to Sir E. Cassel I stated that His Majesty's Government could not urge him to accept the contract obtained by Kaïd Maclean, the terms being so much less favourable than those obtained by the Banque de Paris. I was unwilling to repudiate Maclean publicly, or to do anything by which his influence at Fez might be diminished, but I promised to instruct you to explain to the Moorish Government that Maclean's action was taken upon assumptions which had proved to be unjustified by the facts. I expressed the opinion that it was most desirable that his loan should be concluded on the same conditions as those obtained by the Banque de Paris, and that the two loans should rank side by side, the same security being given for each. I should be sorry if it should prove to be the case that the French Bank had already secured a first mortgage on the customs, although I imagined that, considering the amounts in question, a second mortgage would be well secured.

It would, in my opinion, be quite reasonable for M. Leonhardt to ask the Moorish Government for a copy of the contract with the Banque de Paris, and for an assurance that they have no other engagement with it.

I promised that you should do what you could, unobtrusively, to assist his agent, but I was afraid to allow our Legation to figure too prominently in these transactions, as, if they did so, we should only find the French all the more difficult to manage.

You should conform your action to the lines indicated in the above message.

No. 188.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 9, 1903.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 17 of to-day's date with respect to the Moorish loan, the Minister of Finance said that he was quite ready to substitute any other name in place of that of Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, as the latter informed him that he signed the Contract under a misapprehension. This point can be, therefore, considered settled, and no detriment has been caused to the influence of Sir H. Maclean.

I propose to instruct Kaïd Sir H. Maclean as well as Vice-Consul at Fez to afford Agent all proper facilities and assistance.

Mr. MacLeod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, is a capable business man and a good Arabic scholar. It would not be advisable to send any one from this Legation with the Agent. The Agent hopes to start for Fez immediately he receives instructions, which he expects to-day or to-morrow.

No. 189.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 10)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 10, 1903.

M. VON LEONHARDT has received his instructions from Sir E. Cassel, and is proceeding to Fez to-morrow.

No. 190.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 67. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 12, 1903.

I AM informed by Kaïd Sir H. Maclean that the Sultan is now prepared to accept the offer of a Spanish loan.

Tazzi, the Moorish Minister of Finance, wishes that I should draw up a Contract similar to that for Sir E. Cassel's loan, and then that the Spanish Minister should insert therein the names of the parties concerned, so that Tazzi may be enabled to obtain the Sultan's seal and signature, and prepare the necessary documents as soon as he receives the Contract.

I am of opinion that were I to adopt this procedure it would give too prominent a part in the negotiations to His Majesty's Legation, besides which Sir E. Cassel's Agent has taken the English Contract with him to Fez, and I do not possess its text here.

I propose to instruct Sir H. Maclean to inform Tazzi that he had better communicate direct with Messrs. Pariente, as the Spanish offer to the Moorish Government came first through them acting on behalf of the Spanish group; that I had suggested, for political reasons, and on the assumption that the Moorish Government were in need of more money than that provided by the English and French houses, that Spain should have a share in the loans, but that my intervention must terminate there, and that if the Moorish Government do not really need the money there is no desire on the part of His Majesty's Government to force a Spanish loan on them.

Till I hear from your Lordship I would not mention the matter to Señor de Cologan or to Messrs. Pariente, and if your Lordship approves the course I propose, I would send the message to Sir H. Maclean.

No. 191.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 12, 1903.

ACCORDING to information which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, the Minister of War with the bulk of his troops have returned to Fez for a few days in order to celebrate the Moorish Feast of Aid-el-Kebeer.

It is said that the Pretender is now moving down from the north towards Taza, and it is reported that he intends to pass the feast there.

The return of the Minister of War to Fez even for a time does not seem prudent, and if the above be true, it is evident that the Pretender is in no way demoralized.

Above sent to His Majesty's Representative at Madrid.

No. 192.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 13, 1903.

I APPROVE the reply, as given in your telegram No. 67 of yesterday, which you propose to return to the Moorish Minister of Finance respecting his request that you should draw up the contract for the Spanish Loan.

No. 193.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 54. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 2, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42 of the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I applied for some further information in regard to the grounds on which the Shereefs of Wazzan based their claims to be exempted from the payment of the new internal taxes. I inquired whether their case rested on some Firmans granted by previous Sultans, and, if so, whether such Firmans were considered binding on the present Sultan. I also asked to be informed whether any negotiations had passed last summer between the Sultan and the Shereefs of Wazzan on the subject, and, if so, whether any compromise or understanding had been arrived at.

To this last inquiry I have received no replies, but from the tenour of the message which the Sultan has sent me I gather that no understanding was reached, even if any discussion had, in fact, taken place during the period I have mentioned.

The Sultan has been good enough to inform me that the Shereefs of Wazzan state that their dignity would suffer were they to be called upon to pay taxes; and that by Firmans which they have received, not only from previous but also from the present Sultan, they are freed from all obligations to pay taxes. His Majesty does not deny that he confirmed the former Firmans, and he adds that he and his predecessors have given similar Firmans, both to the members of the Shereefian family and to other Shereefs. His Majesty contends that the Firmans granting exemptions from taxation referred to the old system of taxation; that, so far as members of his own family and other Shereefs are concerned, the Firmans they possess are to have no force or value in respect to the new taxes which he desires to introduce; and that, in principle, the Shereefs of Wazzan have no right to appeal to the Firmans as according them any relief from a new order of things, which was not even in contemplation when the Firmans were granted.

The essence of the new project, His Majesty insists, is that no distinction is to be made between high and low; and he consequently considers all Firmans, so far as the new taxes are concerned, as null and void. His Majesty, indeed, appears disposed to listen to a suggestion which had been made to him to issue a Royal Decree stating that he abrogated all Firmans according taxation relief. This, I submit, would be most unwise; as it would probably be met with open defiance from the Wazzan Shereefs, and possibly from other beneficiaries, and would carry the question on to a ground where the Sultan might find himself in an embarrassing position.

His Majesty further informs me that he will be compelled to collect some taxes this year. For financial and other reasons it will be impossible for the Moorish Government to allow another year to elapse without internal taxation; and if the French Government continue to practically block the introduction of the new system, His Majesty states that he will be placed in a very awkward dilemma. He would, he states, be forced, if no other course were open to him, to recur to the "old system of oppression," as he terms it, and his efforts to ameliorate his country would be checked at the outset. His Majesty said, in conclusion, that he would take no steps till he heard again from me, but that he was anxious for early advice as to the best course he should adopt.

I understand that His Majesty followed the course I ventured to suggest to him, and personally explained to the Secretary of the French Legation the dilemma in which he found himself; but this step does not appear to have led to any results.

The problem is a difficult one. I do not anticipate that the opposition of the Wazzan Shereefs will be easily overcome; and, apart from questions of their personal dignity, they are able to argue their case with documents in hand. It would, on the other hand, be most unfortunate, from many points of view, were the Sultan compelled to revert to the old system. This is a course, I submit, which should only be followed in the last resort. As time presses, I would venture to suggest that I should intimate privately to the Sultan that he had better put his new system into force as regards his own subjects, leaving aside for the moment the question of applying it to foreigners and foreign-protected persons. With the exception of the many adherents of the Wazzan Shereefs, these latter are not a numerous class.

His Majesty would, in these circumstances, be able to collect a considerable revenue, while he could utilize the present year in endeavouring to arrive at some arrangement with those who are at present hindering the universal application of the new scheme. Foreigners and foreign-protected persons have not hitherto paid internal taxes; and, therefore, their temporary exemption from the new taxes would present no novel feature.

I have not informed the Sultan that I have consulted your Lordship on the subject. It seemed to me advisable to communicate with His Majesty solely in my own name, and in a private and unofficial manner; I must apologize for troubling your Lordship, but the question is a very important one for His Majesty and his country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 194.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 56. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 4, 1903.

THE French Minister this morning spontaneously referred to the question of the new internal taxation, and said that he wished to explain confidentially to me exactly how the matter stood, so far as his Government were concerned.

M. Saint René Taillandier said that his Government approved of the new project without any reserve; but before giving their assent to the scheme there was one point which had to be settled, and this point affected the Shereefs of Wazzan. He wished to tell me at the outset that his Government did not wish to exempt the Shereefs from taxation, or to free the lands or farms, which they held as ordinary landlords, from paying the new imposts. There were, however, certain possessions of the Shereefs which stood in a special and distinct category. Many years ago, the exact date he had not for the moment in his mind, the Moorish Government, in lieu of certain payments which they made to the Shereefs—"appanages," he termed them—had handed over to the latter certain specified farms, and had allowed that the tenants of these farms should pay the taxes then in vogue to the Shereefs instead of to the Government.

The Moorish Government now desired that the tenants of these farms should be taxed under the new system, but instead of paying their taxes, as they had hitherto done, to the Shereefs, that they should pay them to the Moorish Treasury. This would, my French colleague observed, be an act of expropriation, and, acting on his instructions, he could not agree to this.

The First Secretary of the French Legation, M. Descos, who was at Fez, had had many interviews with the Foreign Minister on the subject, but hitherto he had failed to induce his Excellency to exempt the possessions held under special conditions by the Shereefs from the general scheme of taxation. The Foreign Minister had at

length inquired whether there would be any objection to the Moorish Government treating directly with the Shereefs on the subject, and had been informed that the French Government would place no obstacles in the way.

M. Saint René Taillandier, however, remarked that this step on the part of the Moorish Government was, in his opinion, a little imprudent, as the Shereefs themselves had very great pretensions, and were inclined to maintain that they should be subjected to no taxes of any description.

The statement of the case given by my French colleague puts a very different complexion on the question from that communicated to me by the Sultan; and it seems to me that the attitude assumed by the French Legation is a sound and logical one, and that it would be foolish on the part of the Moorish Government to risk wrecking the whole project in the endeavour to bring within its scope certain possessions which clearly stand in a special category.

I have not yet replied to the last message which I received from the Sultan, and which I conveyed to your Lordship by telegraph. In the present circumstances I propose to inform His Majesty, quite unofficially, and in a private manner, that it would be imprudent on his part to rescind by a Royal Decree any special and exceptional rights which the Shereefs may have acquired. I would further intimate to His Majesty that it would be wise on the part of the Moorish Government to be conciliatory in their discussions with the Representative of the French Legation, and if exemption from taxation is claimed only for certain specified possessions it would be prudent to offer no determined opposition to the request.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 195.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 57.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 4, 1903.

THE French Minister was good enough to read to me this morning a despatch which he had received from the French Vice-Consul at Fez, dated the 27th ultimo, which reported that on the night of the 25th ultimo the camp of the advance column of the Government forces under the command of the Basha of New Fez, composed of some 1,500 men, had been suddenly attacked by the Pretender's adherents, who had made many prisoners and had captured the whole camp. The Basha himself had succeeded in escaping. The French Vice-Consul added that as the Basha's column was chiefly composed of levies from the Cheraga tribe, whose habitat is to the north of Fez, it was possible that this tribe, whose loyalty has always been doubtful and wavering, would, in view of the fact of their fellow-tribesmen being in the hands of the Pretender, be disposed to sever their connection with the Moorish Government in fear of reprisals being taken on the prisoners should they continue to serve in the Sultan's forces.

On the other hand, the German Minister and some commercial houses here had received news that, though an attack had been made on the Basha's camp, the Minister of War had come to the rescue and had driven back the assailants. I have received no news either from Sir H. Maclean or from His Majesty's Vice-Consul, and so am unable to give any opinion. Whichever version may eventually prove to be correct, it seems that the Pretender is showing signs of renewed activity, and that he is still able to assume the offensive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received a letter from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean stating that the Pretender attacked the camp of the Basha of New Fez on the night of the 25th ultimo, and was repulsed. On the following morning the Minister of War, in his turn, attacked the Pretender's position and completely defeated him; but the Pretender contrived to escape. The Minister of War appears to have made many prisoners and captured a considerable quantity of booty. These events took place in the Tsul district.

A. N.

March 5, 1903.

No. 196.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 30.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 17, 1903.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 49 of the 26th ultimo in regard to the refusal of the Moorish Government to accept the offer made by a Spanish group for a loan of 300,000*l.*

I approve the action taken by you in the matter as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 197.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 31.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 17, 1903.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 53 of the 28th ultimo, reporting your conversation of the previous day with the Spanish Minister in regard to the refusal of the Moorish Government to accept the offer made by a Spanish group for a loan of 300,000*l.*

You will have received in due course my telegram No. 15 of the 28th ultimo, authorizing you to treat your Spanish colleague with perfect frankness with respect to the loan negotiations within the limits you proposed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 198.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 30.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 18, 1903.

THE Spanish Ambassador expressed to me to-day some anxiety with regard to the contemplated loans to the Government of Morocco.

His Excellency told me that the Spanish Government were under the impression that the Sultan had accepted and received the proceeds of a French loan, but that he had declined to borrow from Great Britain or Spain, alleging as his excuse that he was now amply provided with funds.

I told his Excellency that our information was to the effect that the Sultan had received a part of the French loan, the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, through which the transaction was arranged, having been the first in the field. The British loan had not yet been concluded, but the agent of the firms who were to advance the money had gone to Fez, and I had no reason to believe that the negotiation was proceeding otherwise than satisfactorily.

I told his Excellency that I had heard that some hitch had arisen with regard to the Spanish loan, but that I hoped nothing would prevent it from being made.

I added that His Majesty's Government had from the first been anxious that the Sultan should borrow from the three Powers, and that the three loans should be, as nearly as possible, upon similar terms. We should, I said, certainly continue to advocate such an arrangement.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 199.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 33. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 18, 1903.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 56, Confidential, of the 4th instant, reporting your conversation with the French Minister in regard to the question of the new internal taxation in Morocco as affecting the Shereefs of Wazzan.

In the circumstances reported in your despatch, I approve the advice in the matter which you propose to tender unofficially and in a private manner to His Majesty the Sultan.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 200.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 69.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 19, 1903.

A LARGE number of reports have arrived from Wazzan, stating that the Shereefs there, who have just returned from Fez, have proclaimed as Sultan Muly Abd-el-Aziz's brother, Muly Mohammed.

M. Saint Réné Taillandier says that he is inclined to doubt the veracity of this report, and so am I, and he informed me recently that the Shereefs of Wazzan had left Fez in a more contented frame of mind, as they had of late been treated with more consideration and courtesy, and it is scarcely likely that they would have taken a step so serious as this. I am inclined to think, however, that the report may be true that the name of the Sultan was omitted in the prayers in the mosques at Wazzan.

Harm will probably ensue from these reports in any case, although they are probably exaggerated.

No. 201.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 70. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 19, 1903.

I HAVE learnt privately that there is a project on foot to establish wireless telegraphy between this place and Dar-al-Baida; the undertakers are a French engineer and some Spaniards, but a Syndicate of one German and three British firms of Dar-al-Baida may finance the project.

It is proposed to carry this scheme out without reference to the Moorish Government.

Should it be put into effect, I am of opinion that the Moorish Government may object, and, in any case, similar undertakings will be initiated equally independent in other parts of the country.

I am in some difficulty as to whether I should give the Moorish Government private information of the matter.

My informant is Mr. Maclean, His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, and he was pledged to keep the matter secret.

No. 202.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 58.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 13, 1903.

ACCORDING to the information which I have received from Fez, it would appear that, after the defeat which the Pretender suffered at the hands of the Minister of War on the 26th ultimo, the former fled northwards, and was said to have taken refuge with a sept of the Sinhaja tribe.

It was thought probable that he was, by this movement, cut off from his adherents in the Taza district, and that the tribes among whom he had sought asylum would be induced to hand him over to the Moorish authorities.

These anticipations have apparently not been realized, as I am informed that the Pretender had returned into the Tsul district and was moving towards Taza, where it was said he intended to pass the Moorish feast, which took place on the 10th instant. If this be the case, it is clear that the recent defeats which have been inflicted on the Pretender have not discouraged him or his adherents.

It is now about five weeks since the Minister of War left Fez on his campaign against the Pretender, and the results which have hitherto been obtained, beyond two reverses inflicted on the Pretender, have been the punishment of the greater portion of the Hiaina tribe, who have had several of their villages burnt, their cattle seized, and a certain number of their tribesmen killed or made prisoners.

So far as my information goes, no impression has as yet been produced on the Ghaiata, Branes, Meknassa, and other tribes, who, from the outset, have been on the side of the Pretender.

It has been repeatedly stated that these tribes had solicited pardon, but no tangible proofs have been afforded that these appeals, if really made, were seriously meant.

The Minister of War, with the bulk of his forces, returned to Fez on the 9th instant, in order to celebrate the feast in the capital. In view of the continued activity of the Pretender, this step does not seem to be a very prudent one, and may give rise to misinterpretations.

I am afraid that the rebellion will continue for some time to come. It is true that it is not for the present a cause of serious or immediate danger to the capital; and that it is not in so acute a stage as it was some time ago. Still, until the Pretender himself is captured, and this will be a difficult task, the rebellion will not be completely or easily stamped out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 203.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 60. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 13, 1903.

KAÏD Sir H. Maclean has informed me that the Sultan has now consented to accept the offer made by a Spanish group through Messrs. Pariente, the Legation bankers, for a loan of 10,000,000 pesetas (300,000*l.*).

The Minister of Finance, in communicating this intelligence to Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, observed that as he was ignorant of the names of the parties who were willing to make the loan, he was unable to have a contract drawn up. He, therefore, suggested that I should cause copies to be made of the contract for the English loan, and then request the Spanish Minister to sign the contract, and insert the names of the lenders. On receipt of the contract the Minister of Finance said that he could then obtain the Sultan's signature to the documents ratifying the contract, and giving orders to the Customs officials to pay the interest and instalments of repayments as they fell due.

His Excellency said that he desired one alteration to be made in the Spanish contract, and that was that the repayments of the advances were only to commence in six years from the date of the contract, instead of in two years, as laid down in the contract with the Banque de Paris.

I may mention that in the English contract the repayments were to commence after four years, but this is a point which the agent of the English firm intends to have amended, and obtain that the repayments should begin, as in the French arrangement, after two years had elapsed.

It seems to me that the procedure proposed by the Minister of Finance is one that it would hardly be within my province to adopt. As it happens, I should, in any case, be unable to meet his wishes, as the contract for the English loan is in the hands of the agent of the English firm who is now on his way to Fez.

I would propose to request Sir H. Maclean to inform the Minister of Finance that as Messrs. Pariente were the channel through whom the offer from the Spanish bank or group was originally presented, it would be better that any communications in regard to that matter should be made direct to them. He might explain to the Minister of Finance that as we were given to understand that the Moorish Government were in need of money, and would be glad of advances over and above those which were or would be supplied by English and French firms, it seemed desirable for political reasons that Spain should also have a share in these loans. The advice which had been tendered to that effect was not in any way intended to be construed into a desire to press the Moorish Government to incur obligations which were not urgently necessary. Beyond giving this advice, which was dictated solely with the view of assisting Moorish interests, the intervention of this Legation could properly not go.

I think that it would be desirable that I should treat the recent communications of the Minister of Finance as strictly confidential, and before mentioning the matter either to my Spanish colleague or to Messrs. Pariente, that I should await a further report from Fez.

I believe the Moorish Government have well nigh drawn upon the whole amount of the credit opened for them at the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas. Their agent here is, I am told, offering as much further credit as they may desire, while other parties, whose names I have not yet ascertained, have, it is said, offered to advance money at only 4 per cent.

The Moorish Government will, it seems probable, be in need of considerable sums of money.

The rebellion may, with its attendant extraordinary expenditure, be prolonged for some time yet; while the continued want of rain is causing the greatest uneasiness as to the harvest. A failure of the crops would be a most serious matter for this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 204.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 61.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 14, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a private letter which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan, giving some information as to the feeling among the tribes near that place in regard to the Pretender.

I am afraid that the sympathy, of which mention is made, extends further than the district to which the informant of Mr. Bewicke alludes. I am indeed informed, privately, by a Secretary of the Sultan's Deputy here, that news reached Tangier yesterday that the Ait Tseghrouchen, a large tribe to the south-east of Fez, had sent a considerable contingent to join the Pretender.

The shrine of Moulai Absalom is one of the holiest in Morocco, and I have already heard from other sources that prayers had been offered up there for Moulai Mohammed in place of the Sultan. A letter from the Pretender was, I am told, read at the above-mentioned shrine, stating that he did not wish to disturb the people in their ordinary avocations, but inviting all men who were not occupied to join his forces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 204.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

Dear Sir Arthur, *Tetuan, March* 13, 1903.

I AM sorry to say that the report here is that the Pretender still has plenty of forces at his back.

A man told me yesterday that the Riff who had come here for the feast reported that the Pretender had two camps that are engaged with the Sultan's force, but that he has a third large force that is kept in reserve.

I pointed out that this does not agree with the general report, and the man said all the reports about the weakness of the Pretender are false, and practically asked whether the Sultan's forces had yet been able to enter Taza, and said if the Sultan's forces cannot retake Taza it shows plainly that the Pretender is still strong.

He went on to assure me that all the tribes round here are at heart in favour of the Pretender, and assured me as a fact that on the eve of the feast most of the people round Moulai Absalom were praying for Moulai Mohammed, not for the Sultan; curiously enough, he stated all this before a man who has held several posts under the Sultan, and he did not contradict it in any way.

I have not however been able to get it confirmed.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 205.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 62.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 14, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting the celebration of the Baïram feast at Fez in the presence of the Sultan, and giving an estimate of the forces on parade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 205.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 33.)
Sir, *Fez, March* 10, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Moslem "great feast" was celebrated in the usual manner and with all success here this morning.

The turn-out of tribal contingents, particularly of Berbers, was by far the largest I have seen here, and the Sultan was accorded a splendid reception.

Besides giving the usual formal salutations when they were presented to the Sultan at the parade, the Berber contingents, particularly the Zimmur and others from Mequinez district, broke into unrestrained acclamations, scattered and galloped in every direction open to them, fired off "feux de joie," and cheered to such an extent that one could see the townspeople here and there beginning to have misgivings as to what it all meant.

Except three regiments of infantry and three tribal levies of the Basha Esh-Shergui, who were left with him at Beni Snus in Sheraga, in all perhaps 3,000 men, the whole of the forces under the Minister of War and the Master of the Ceremonies returned to Fez from Haiana district yesterday morning for the present feast.

It is, of course, impossible to give more than a rough estimate of numbers of men and horses when they are so irregularly grouped as on Moorish parades. But as nearly as I could judge, and comparing them with bodies of men I have seen elsewhere, and whose exact numbers were known, I should say there were from 10,000 to 15,000 present this morning.

Of these fully half were horsemen, and all were armed with breechloading rifles of various kinds. The guards left at the various camps—say, 2,000 to 3,000—are not included in this estimate.

The total armed men at the Sultan's disposition hereabouts just now therefore appears to be about 20,000. On the other hand, we could see very few contingents on foot, and the bodies of mountaineers from districts north-east and north of Fez whom one used to see on such occasions were markedly absent to-day.

The Sultan appeared in good health and spirits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

P.S.—M. Descos, First Secretary of the French Legation, appeared at the parade in uniform, but only as a spectator. He was accompanied by the French Vice-Consul, the latter in ordinary costume.

J. M. M.

No. 206.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 15, 1903.

THE French Minister informed me this morning that the Shereefs of Wazzan had left Fez to return to their homes, but that they had not arrived at any arrangement with the Moorish Government in regard to the taxation project. M. St. Réné Taillandier observed that the Shereefs had shown no very conciliatory disposition to come to terms on the question; and he thought it possible that the Moorish Government would now endeavour to settle the matter direct with the French Legation. I gathered from my French colleague that there would be no difficulty on this point, provided the Moorish Government exempted from payment of the taxes the lands of the Shereefs which were in a special category, and on which I reported in my despatch No. 56 of the 4th instant.

The Shereefs appear to have left Fez in a more contented frame of mind than when they arrived, as they had succeeded in obtaining the settlement of some outstanding claims, and had, during the latter part of their visit, been treated with much courtesy and consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 207.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 15, 1903.

THE French Minister was good enough to read to me this morning some extracts from a letter which he had received from M. Descos, the First Secretary of the French Legation, relating the substance of conversations which he had held at Fez with the Shereefs of Wazzan in regard to the situation.

The Shereefs informed M. Descos that they had been asked by the Sultan to use their influence towards preventing the Riff and other mountain tribes from making common cause with the Pretender. The Shereefs said that they had replied that, although their loyalty to the Sultan was unshaken and unimpeachable, they begged to be excused from undertaking a mission of the nature indicated. Their refusal, they said, was based on the conviction that any endeavour to win over the Riff and other tribes to take an active part against the Pretender was doomed to failure, and that then the sincerity of their efforts might be called in question.

They had, they said, explained to the members of the Moorish Government that though the recent successes of the Sultan's troops had removed any immediate apprehension for the safety of the capital, and had extricated the situation from its acute stage, still the movement against the Sultan was spreading, and that the Riff and the

adjoining mountain districts were all in favour of the Pretender. An endeavour to change the direction of this current might have an effect contrary to what was desired, and bring into activity a feeling which at present was dormant. The Pretender, they said, was urgent in his solicitations for assistance, and though he had gained the sympathies, he had not as yet secured the active co-operation of the tribes in question. He might, however, do so, and in fact the Shereefs asserted they were so uneasy on this point, that they had hastened their departure from Fez in order to be present at Wazzan should any explosion occur.

They further stated that the Sheikh of the important Derkawa sect had been intrusted with a large sum of money by the Moorish Government to proceed to the Taza district to induce the tribes there to desert the Pretender, but that the latter had seized the Sheikh and his money, and now held him captive.

The Shereefs considered, and this opinion is, I know, shared by many, that the Moorish Government were in error in endeavouring to lay hands on the Pretender himself; and that it would be far better for them to strike at Taza itself, as the establishment of the Shereefian authority in that town, which was the centre of the Pretender's influence, would produce more impression in the country generally than any other measure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 208.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 18.)
(Extract.) *Madrid, March 15, 1903.*

THE Spanish Government and press continue to show a keen interest in the affairs of Morocco. There is considerable disappointment at the failure of the Spanish loan, and this is attributed by the Spanish Foreign Office to the machinations of Germany. I am informed by Señor Abarzuza that the German Minister in Tangier and the German Ambassador here are very curious and active in all that concerns Spanish relations with the Sultan. His Excellency makes no secret of his opinion that their interference is altogether unnecessary and mischievous.

No. 209.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March 24, 1903.*

INFORMATION has reached me from Fez that M. von Leonhardt, the agent for Sir E. Cassel, has left Fez and is now on his way back to Tangier, having brought the negotiations for the English loan to a successful conclusion.

M. von Leonhardt has procured a copy of the French Contract, and the terms on which the English one has been concluded are exactly similar to those on which the French loan has been secured.

No. 210.

Sir H. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 20. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, March 25, 1903.*

I AM informed confidentially that the Spanish Minister in Tangier has been informed by his French colleague that it is proposed to hold a Conference of the Powers to consider the question of Morocco; the Conference will probably meet in Berlin.

The Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs is greatly disturbed, and asks to be supplied with information. Please instruct me, if possible, to say unreservedly and at once, that His Majesty's Government are not a party to the reported arrangement.

Much harm will be done here by the report.

No. 211.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March 25, 1903.*

NO Government has made to us any proposal for a Conference on Morocco to be held at Berlin, as suggested in your telegram No. 20 of to-day's date.

I have just seen M. Cambon. He spoke to me about Morocco, and would certainly have mentioned the subject of the Conference had there been any idea of mooting it.

It is in the highest degree improbable that the French Government should be a party to such an arrangement, as throughout the recent troubles they have maintained the position that the Powers principally interested in the Morocco question were Great Britain, France, and Spain, to the exclusion of other countries.

No. 212.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March 25, 1903.*

I HAVE consulted the Post Office relative to the proposal for establishing wireless telegraphy between Tangier and Casablanca, reported in your telegram No. 70 of the 19th instant. They are of opinion that, in view of possible developments, permission should only be granted for a short term, say for three years, and on conditions safeguarding the interests of the Moorish Government and reserving to them full control in cases of emergency.

I have also consulted the Admiralty, and may therefore have some further observations to send you.

No. 213.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March 25, 1903.*

MY telegram No. 19 of to-day's date. Admiralty are opposed to the establishment of a wireless telegraph station at Tangier, as likely to prove detrimental to British naval interests. It would interfere with the naval station at Gibraltar and Lloyd's proposed station at Cape Spartel, and would be able to communicate with the Spanish Station reported to exist at Cape Tarifa.

I have therefore to instruct you to do all in your power to oppose the proposed wireless telegraph between Tangier and Casablanca.

No. 214.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, March 25, 1903.*

I CALLED on Foreign Minister this morning at his request, and he told me Cambon was misleading Delcassé as to the interest taken by England in the Morocco question. The Spanish Government are constantly receiving assurances from the French Embassy that the neutrality of Tangier is all that England cares for, but these assurances they have consistently refused to accept, and they have declined to join any scheme for the division of Morocco into zones of influence. They desire to maintain the *status quo*. Señor Abarzuza thinks that by threatening to come to an

arrangement with Germany, France may be attempting to put pressure on Spain, and fears the French may act in some rash manner, as they did in the Fashoda affair. What he would like is for England and Spain to come to an agreement together that both would refuse to give their adhesion to any settlement of the Morocco question without previous consultation with one another. He thinks France might be displeased, but that to show her the danger of assuming that she can disregard English feeling would be to render her a true service.

No. 215.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 26, 1903.

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 19 and 21 of the 13th and 15th January respectively, the three British firms might be warned by the British Consul at Dar-al-Baida not to participate in the proposed project for wireless telegraphy. This action, if successful, would not defeat project, but might hamper it. The foreign Representatives could not well support the establishment of the undertaking under consideration, as some of them are practically blocking project of establishing wireless telegraphy at Lloyd's station by referring the question to their Governments. Some of the foreign Representatives would not express an opinion without consulting their Governments on Lloyd's proposal, and Moorish Government would not sanction it unless all Representatives were agreeable.

I might, besides my communication to British Consul, warn Moorish Government privately of the project, although they might feel hampered in taking any action, as, I believe, the apparatus is to be erected in private property. If your Lordship would suggest any other steps that I might take I should be grateful.

No. 216.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 26, 1903.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 22 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that M. de Cologan, the Spanish Minister here, informs me that the language held to him by M. Saint Réné Taillandier was very clear as to a conference being shortly held, probably at Berlin, on the affairs of this country. He also states that he is sure that the French Minister would not speak without authority for doing so, as he is a prudent man.

It is possible, I think, that M. Saint Réné Taillandier was alluding merely to a conference on wireless telegraphy regarding which he had already spoken to me, but Señor de Cologan is positive that his version is correct.

I have sent this telegram to Sir M. Durand.

No. 217.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 65.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 18, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter which was sent by the Pretender to the tribes mentioned in the document immediately after his victory over the Sultan's forces on the 23rd December of last year.

The letter, whose authenticity I have no reason to doubt, is of some interest as explaining, in more detail than in the other compositions of the Pretender which have come into my hands, the grounds on which he bases his opposition to the Sultan, as also his motives in appealing for assistance.

Moreover, in one passage he intimates that he has received a divine command to raise the standard of revolt.

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No. 216*.

Sir E. Cassel to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 27.)

21, *Old Broad Street, March* 26, 1903.

My Lord Marquess,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a telegram from my agent advising me of the conclusion of the advance of 300,000*l.* to Morocco in accordance with the instructions forwarded to him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. CASSEL.

Since last reporting to your Lordship the various surmises as to the identity of the Pretender, I have received many indications which now lead me to think that he is in reality Omar-el-Zahoni, although he usually prefixes to his letters the name of Muley Mohammed, the brother of the Sultan, and uses the style and form of a reigning Sultan.

It is possible that this astute fanatic, who is well known throughout a great part of the country, imposes on his immediate adherents by a certain resemblance to the Sultan's brother; and that he intends, should his cause be successful, to place the real Muley Mohammed on the throne.

He may, of course, be playing for his own hand and supporting his cause by stating that he has an inspired mission; but in that case it is difficult to understand why he should adopt the name of Muley Mohammed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Letter from the Pretender to his Adherents.

(Translation.)

THE servants of the Shereefian Court, the whole of the Kabila of Beni Masara, Settat, Beni Mezgilda, Kabila Ghasowa, Beni Thamed, Kabila Khamas, Beni Hassan, Beni Houzmar, Beni Ider, Beni Aros, Ahl Serif, Rahoona, Beni Isf, Beni Gerfet, Wad Ras, Beni Msour, Jibel Habid, Angera, Beni Said, Ghomara, and all the smaller Kabilas. After compliments: You know of the embarrassments which have come upon Moslemin, the commotion that has come upon them because of their going astray, so much so that the intelligent have become drunk, although they are not drunkards, and they know not what to do because of their fear, and are stupefied. This is caused by the innovations of the evil heads of the people (governing body) by their selling the true believers for unbelievers and exchanging the blessings of God for unbelief. They are thrust out, and have lost this world and the next. Concerning these our Lord said in His writing on the subject of those who oppose Islam and the impious: "Do you not see those who have exchanged the gifts of God for unbelief and caused their people to reach Hell." And He said: "Do not approach those who have acted unjustly, or fire will seize you." They cast behind them that which came in the verse (of the Koran) named the good tidings, God purchased from the true believers their souls and their riches on the condition that they should inherit Heaven.

The pure Shraa judged them unbelievers. The proof of this is his saying: "He of you who takes them for friends is of them." He likewise said in the Koran: "He who exchanges the faith for unbelief has gone astray into an evil path."

Whoever is in this condition it is incumbent on the faithful to cast him out or kill him; as he said, on him be peace. Notwithstanding your knowledge of all this, the zeal of Islam not move you, and not one man come forward to alter this state of things. The Moslem who is not bewildered in his religion, takes no account of the censure of the blamer in the matter connected with God. How can he who is in bondage to unbelief and schism and whose heart is woven over by deviations and hypocrisies, benefit the faith and the Moslem would be restored to a sound state by him.

However, the Apostle of God truly said: "There will always be a portion of my people following the truth who will not be harmed by those who oppose them even unto the day of judgment, and they are in the west. Let the people of this land be joyful thereat, although darkness has descended upon them." We have uprisen by a command from God and His Apostle to repair this rupture in Islam and to reunite Islam. Who obeys this obtains safety for himself, and who does not do so is struck on the middle of the head. It is most right that truth be told, and what is there after truth but error?

Know that we, by the bounty of God, with our victorious troops have scattered the erring people, those sent by Abdel Aziz from the corrupt army which was encamped in the Khabila of Hinia: we took all it contained, tents, cannon, horses, arms, and valuable stores, and the sinners who were there fled in a bad plight. We enter the camp with the Moslems, who were with us, and all that the Kabilas took from it they have handed over to our Shereefian Majesty, to be a help to the faith. Thus shall Islam be, and not that which the unjust people have done. We inform you of this, so that you may have your share of joy and pleasure at the victory of Islam. I command you to collect your

men, strong warriors, and join us with them at Fez quickly after the receipt of this letter, and be not indolent against those who have dishonoured Islam, and who have acted wrongfully.

I inform you of this.

Our Shereefian command to this effect is issued 30th December, 1902.

No. 218.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 67.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 20, 1903.

REPORTS from various sources, some doubtful and some very fairly trustworthy, have reached Tangier within the last few days to the effect that the Shereefs of Wazzan, on their return home from Fez, held a conclave of their relations and finally determined to declare His Majesty's brother, Muley Mohammed, as Sultan. The reports were so positive and persistent that I inquired of my French colleague whether he had heard anything to the above effect, and he told me that beyond the current reports nothing had reached him, and that he considered that it was highly improbable that the Shereefs would have ventured to take such a step. My opinion certainly coincided with his; though it is possible, as I have been very positively assured, the name of the Sultan was omitted from the prayers in the Wazzan mosques, and blessings invoked on the "Ruler of the country," without mentioning any name.

My French colleague told me last night that he had been making further inquiries, and was now convinced that the Shereefs had not taken the extraordinary step with which they had been credited.

This is satisfactory; but the misfortune is that the reports have been widely spread, while the disclaimer will not be so easily propagated, and a further element of discord will be introduced into a situation which is already sufficiently perplexing and troubled.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 219.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 68.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 21, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith extracts from a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, in regard to events connected with the rebellion in favour of the Pretender. The concluding observations of Mr. MacLeod are, I venture to think, worthy of your Lordship's attention.

Unless some decisive blow is struck by the Government forces the rebellion itself will, to my mind, be prolonged for some time to come, while the inability of the Sultan to suppress the agitation will encourage all lawless elements throughout the country. The continued absence from their districts of all the Provincial Governors, who were summoned to the Court some months ago, has loosened the reins of authority, and complaints are reaching me from several quarters of the increase of brigandage and insecurity.

The Moorish Government apparently, now that any immediate danger to the capital has been removed, are disposed to consider that the Pretender need no longer be seriously regarded. It is probably true that he will be unable, as matters at present stand, to induce his sympathizers to quit their homes and follow him in advance on Fez; but, on the other hand, it is clear that the Moorish Government hesitate to enter the districts where his chief strength resides. Moreover, beyond the sphere of the Pretender's actual and immediate influence, loyalty to the Sultan is fast waning and respect for authority rapidly disappearing. The Government should direct their efforts to the reoccupation of Taza, the centre of the movement, and thereby furnish such evidence of their power as would be easy for all to appreciate and difficult for any one to discredit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 219.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 34.)
(Extract.) *Fez, March* 13, 1903.

AFTER the Pretender had been defeated on the 26th February, the Minister of War made a public proclamation daily that the Ghiata, Branes, Tsul, and Shinhaxa need no longer distrust the Government, and were free to visit and trade with the camp. Only a portion of the Hiayna availed themselves of this offered pardon, the others thinking it only a trap to capture them. Nearly all the supplies for the camp had therefore to be sent from Fez, and they came so irregularly that food and forage, especially the latter, rose sometimes to famine prices—a horse-feed of barley costing occasionally as much as 4 to 5 pesetas, say, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.* sterling.

The total inadequateness of the present arrangements for feeding the army seems to me, at a time like the present, to constitute a really serious danger to public safety and to the Sultan's interests. The Minister of War made an attempt to negotiate with the tribes, through the prisoners taken at Ain Mediuna, but without result. Thereafter, presumably to avoid the army's passing the ensuing Moslem Great Feast under circumstances of semi-starvation and thus causing much discontent and desertion, the Minister of War marched back to Fez, reaching that city on the 9th instant.

The Bashai Es-Shirgui's force, reinforced by three regiments of infantry, was posted in Beni Amur, Sheraga (not Beni Snus, as erroneously reported at first), where it still remains.

For your information I inclose a Memorandum in regard to the state of the provinces between Taza and Melilla, of the report made to me by a man who has just traversed the district in question. He is a Branes tribesman, so was able to go into the disaffected districts safely, and he brought back a letter from the Moorish Customs Administrator at Melilla to a friend of the latter's here, vouching for his really having made the journey. I inclose a map* to illustrate this Memorandum and the foregoing narrative.

I would invite special attention to his evidence in regard to supplies of ammunition in the disaffected districts. The price mentioned for refilled cartridges (Martini-Henry and Remington), namely, ¼ of a peseta per round, is about half the rate at which they are sold hereabouts as a rule. Refills are not common here, but original cartridges are retailed at from 4*d.* to 6*d.* each, with a reduction when taking a quantity. The trade is, of course, illegal; but, nevertheless, cartridges can nearly always be obtained here, especially Martini-Henry ammunition, of which I am sure there is a considerable leakage both from the army and from the Sultan's Arsenal here.

It will be observed that perfect freedom of trade in European commodities appears to exist between Melilla and the disaffected districts. My informant's description of the Pretender's personal appearance corresponds roughly with others I have had, and also one from a respectable merchant here, who used to own olive groves in Zarhon, adjoining those of Jelali, and who knew him intimately.

On one occasion this man lived at Ulad Youssef for three months, and saw Jelali almost daily. I am trying to procure other descriptions of Jelali for your information.

The return of the army to Fez marks a period in these events, when it is possible to review them and discern the situation with some clearness; the net results seem to be, on the Government's part, the reduction of Hiayna, and rendering it impossible for the Pretender to attempt an invasion in that direction. On the Pretender's part, while losing Hiayna (or such wavering support as he had there) he has undoubtedly added to his sphere of influence many tracts of country hitherto neutral in the mountain and Riff districts. That such tribes as those referred to, people at no time under Government control, paying no taxes and living in unmolested lawlessness, should have placed themselves under a ruler of any kind. especially of so severe an one as the Pretender is, is in itself perhaps the most remarkable event of the movement, and affords striking evidence of his strength of character, and his ingenuity in availing himself of their fears of each other and of the Government. He poses now as the one link of union amongst themselves, by maintaining which they may be able to elude the consequences of their past actions.

The meagre results obtained by the Government so far have, I think, been due to the following causes:—

1. To the want of any steady consistent policy, whether of conciliation, corruption, or repression.

* Not printed.

2. To the slowness and incompleteness of their military arrangements, both in conception and execution. In no case was a success followed by pursuit of the vanquished, nor was any thorough surrounding or capture of the enemy ever effected.

3. To the absence of reasonable commissariat arrangements, making it impossible for the troops to move more than half a day's march from the base camp.

As regards the immediate future the Government, so far as I can gather, seem inclined also to trust to their powers of negotiations rather than to fighting to secure the capture of the Pretender, that is to say, they hope to succeed by persuasion or bribery in inducing some one of the tribes, amongst whom Bu Hamara moves about, either to expose him to a strong attack or to themselves give him up.

This, they believe will be much easier when the expeditions, now being assembled by Mulai Arafa and Sidi Mohammed El Amrani, have begun to move.

In the same way, the Pretender seems to trust to add one tribe after another to his following, partly by exhortations, and partly by threats of his and their neighbour's vengeance, rather than by attempting an aggressive campaign on a larger scale against the whole army of the Sultan. Evidently he wishes to fight in his own mountainous country; and I imagine he would be well pleased if the Sultan himself came against him, when a success would be more valuable to him than one delivered against a Court official. The expedient of showing the real Mulai Mohammed, which had excellent local results here, might of course be tried in Taza districts; but, so far as I can gather, the general opinion at the Court is that it would be too risky to let him understand how strong his name is in those parts.

If he escaped from the camp, for instance, Bu Hamara, might easily pretend to have been his forerunner, and the Sultan's position would be very seriously compromised. Under all these circumstances, one can anticipate (unless the Government have one of those unexpected strokes of good luck they have so often experienced in past times) no very speedy termination to the present state of affairs.

Inclosure 2 in No. 219.

Notes of a Statement made by Isaid-al-Benusi to Vice-Consul MacLeod.

I ACCOMPANIED the Minister of War's expedition on Wednesday, the 25th February last. We marched from Wad Libben to Ulad Jaafra, and camped about 2 miles from the camp of the Basha Esh-Shergui. That night (Wednesday to Thursday, the 25th and 26th February) the Pretender's followers attacked the Basha Esh-Shergui's camp. His followers included detachments of people from Shinhaza, Ain Mediuna, Tsul, Branes, Arob of Huara, Ghiata, and odd men from various other tribes. But withal, his following was, though representative, very small in number. I cannot speak as to numbers, but the total I know was very small.

Recaptured part of the camp, including some tents, horses, and mules, and killed, so I heard, eleven Sheraga men and Kaïd Errha, of Zarhon. The Pretender took no prisoners, but was finally repulsed and lost twelve men prisoners. I do not know how many of the Pretender's people were killed. Next morning (Thursday, the 26th February) Menebhi advanced, in co-operation with the Basha Esh-Shergui's force. They reached the camp of the Pretender at Ain Mediuna, and captured it and the adjacent village, and took about thirty prisoners and, roughly, about thirty heads. It was rumoured that the Makhzen lost some forty killed and two prisoners. The heads of the killed were sent to Taza. At least this was commonly reported among the soldiers, but I do not know whether it was true. But at any rate the Makhzen forces very soon abandoned the village they had captured, and retreated to their camp. The camp was some four hours march from the scene of the fight, and so it was necessary either for the main body of the camp to follow up the attacking party or for the latter to return.

On Friday, the 27th February, there was no fighting. On that afternoon, I left the camp for Melilla, and that night reached the borders of Tsul. On Saturday, I proceeded and reached Ulad Bekkar. Thence I went to Jebel-ben-Yahiyin, where I slept on Sunday night (the 1st March), and next day between 12·15 P.M. and 1 P.M. I reached Melilla. I left Melilla on Wednesday morning, the 4th March, 1903, and returned by the same route by which I had come, but proceeded right on to Fez, as the Minister of War's force had meanwhile marched thither for the great Feast.

The tribes in sympathy with or listening to the Pretender, are :—

Ghiata, Tsul Metalsa, Branes, Arob of Huara, Ulad Bekkar, Djebel Gueliz, El Garet, Beni Bu Yahiya, Mtalsa, Beni Touzin, Beni Isaid, Kebdana (part), Guelaya (part),

No. 220*.

Foreign Office to Sir E. Cassel.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1903.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, and to express to you his Lordship's satisfaction at the conclusion of the arrangement for an advance to the Moorish Government, which has been reported by your agent in Morocco.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

Ulad Bu Rima, Guezemai, Sinhadja Saghir, Mezziat, Beni Zeroual, Beni Ahmed Surrak, Finasa, Marnesa, Rechida, Tafrata, Es-Sefra, Gada Debdou.

A son of Bu Amama's came recently to Bu Hamara's camp with some fifteen horsemen, and only stayed a few days, and departed. I heard this in Branes, on my way back from Melilla to Fez. He was stated to have been sent by his father to visit and report upon the Pretender.

The road from Melilla to Taza was open, and I heard that European goods, sugar, tea, candles, cotton, &c., reached Taza regularly from that port.

The letters which Bu Hamara circulates are read in the country fairs and markets by the local Talebs.

I only myself heard one of them read, and it was the first he sent some months ago from Ghiata. In it, he said "Rise, Moslems, and make holy war against the polluted Government set up by the corrupt man (the Sultan or Menebhi ?) "

Modern rifle cartridges in disaffected districts sell at ½ peseta each for new ones, and ¼ peseta for refilled ones. But they are not plentiful. The new ones come in from Tangiers, Tetuan, and the Riff Coast, at and near Melilla, and Makhzen ammunition, stolen, is said to have been formerly sent in considerable quantities from Fez.

I saw Bu Hamara on the second day after the end of Ramadan, when I was passing through Tafaza, some days after the Amrani's defeat, the 22nd December, 1902, he had come out to his Meshuar in his camp, and I saw him at 2 or 3 yards distance. I did not speak to him; he was seated on a low wooden stool.

I found the people all convinced that he was really Muley Mhemed, but I feel sure if the Sultan went to them and showed them the real Muley Mhemed, they would abandon Bu Hamara at once.

There is cheapness and plenty in all the districts I came through. Prices, especially for wheat and barley, being less than half the current Fez rates. The crops seem in much the same condition as here, *i.e.*, in need of rain.

Bu Hamara is entirely and directly accessible to any one soever with complaints or cases for decision. A certain Kaïd Absalom Shirgui is his Kaïd Meshuar. This man, I am told, was formerly a Deputy Kaïd of the Basha Esh-Shergui, in Beni Amur of Sheraga. On my way back from Melilla, and when passing through Branes on the 6th and 7th March, I was informed by my relatives that Bu Hamara had just passed towards Taza, where he meant to pass the Feast. This information was matter of common knowledge, and I am sure it is correct. When I went towards Melilla (the 28th February), through Branes, I was told that Bu Hamara was in Shinaza. I feel sure if the tribes could only be convinced that Bu Hamara is not Muley Mhemed, and that Muley Abd-al-Aziz is really present at Court and governing as usual, they would at once abandon the Pretender.

Inclosure 3 in No. 219.

Map.

[Not printed.]

No. 220.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 5. Commercial.) *Tangier, March* 19, 1903.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Sultan has announced that the exportation from all Moorish ports of the residue of olives will be permitted, as an experiment, for three months to commence from the 1st April. The duty will be 1 peseta (about 7*d.*) per cwt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 221.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 29. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1903.

YOU should convey to the Minister for Foreign Affairs my thanks for his friendly communication, reported in your Excellency's telegram No. 29 of the 25th instant.

His Majesty's Government are prepared to come to an agreement with the Spanish Government that each will consult the other before committing itself to any settlement with regard to the question of Morocco. I am, however, of opinion that we should both propose to the French Government to enter into a similar agreement, so as to avoid any risk of giving offence to France.

Should the Spanish Government approve my proposal, I should be willing to broach the subject to M. Cambon, and endeavour to ascertain his views thereon.

No. 222.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 166.)
My Lord, *Paris, April* 1, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which has been addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Wortley, Military Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy, announcing an attack by natives on a French patrol near Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 222.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wortley to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 20.)
Sir, *Paris, April* 1, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, a cutting from the "Dépêche Coloniale" of this date, announcing an attack by natives on a French patrol in the vicinity of Figuig.

As these affairs of outposts are of constant occurrence, no particular importance is to be attached to this attack, although the French Colonial press will probably endeavour to connect it with the state of affairs in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. STUART WORTLEY,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Military Attaché.

Inclosure 2 in No. 222.

Extract from the "Dépêche Coloniale" of April 1, 1903.

ON télégraphie de Béni-Ounif qu'une patrouille de tirailleurs du poste de Ksar-el-Azouz a été attaquée par les indigènes.

Un sous-officier Français et quatre hommes ont été tués. Il y a de nombreux blessés. Le sous-officier a été tué par derrière.

Le poste de Ksar-el-Azouz est situé dans la palmeraie de Figuig, à 2 kilom. environ de ce point.

[Cette dépêche confirme, malheureusement, les appréhensions dont nous nous faisions l'écho d'après notre confrère, la "Dépêche Algérienne," dans notre numéro d'hier.]

No. 223.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 169. P.)
My Lord, *Paris, April* 1, 1903.

M. DELCASSÉ, when I saw him to-day, appeared much irritated by the news he had received of a disaster to a French outpost near Figuig, one officer and four men having been killed. His Excellency said that the Sultan of Morocco was himself in such desperate straits that it would be absurd to try and exact satisfaction from him. He did not state what measures he thought of taking to inflict punishment on the aggressors, nor whether those measures might affect the arrangements at present existing on the frontier between Algeria and Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 224.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 171.)
My Lord, *Paris, April* 2, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a further report by Colonel Stuart-Wortley, Military Attaché to this Embassy, with regard to the attack on a French convoy near Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 224.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart-Wortley to Mr. de Bunsen.

No. 21.)
Sir, *Paris, April* 2, 1903.

WITH reference to my No. 20 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, a cutting from the "Matin" of this date, from which it appears that the attack on a convoy between Fendi and Ksar-el-Azoug (about 40 kilom. south-west of Figuig) was of more serious nature than it appeared to be at first.

The Oulad Jerir are a considerable tribe inhabiting a large extent of country south-west of Figuig, between the 32nd and 31st parallels. The line of communications between Figuig and Igli pass through this country.

It is not known at present what steps will be taken to inflict punishment on the attacking tribe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. STUART-WORTLEY,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.

Inclosure 2 in No. 224.

Extract from the "Matin" of April 2, 1903.

Algier, 1er *Avril.*—Dans l'attaque du convoi entre Fendi et Ksar-el-Azoug, les chameaux du convoi furent pris et repris.

Les légionnaires, tirailleurs, disciplinaires, spahis, et quelques soldats du train se battirent avec acharnement jusqu'à épuisement de leurs 120 cartouches par homme.

Le fourrier Lavy, des tirailleurs, qui avait tué plusieurs ennemis, venait d'être frappé d'une balle à la tête et se faisait panser par un camarade pour se porter en avant quand tous deux furent pris par les Oulad Djerir et achevés non sans se défendre encore.

Le Lieutenant Ruffier a été atteint d'une balle à la cuisse.

Le Capitaine Normand a dû battre en retraite après avoir inutilement rallié ses hommes et avoir fait preuve d'une grande bravoure. Les Oulad Djerir restèrent maîtres du terrain.

Un des hommes disparus a été retrouvé mourant de soif.

Les ennemis prirent quarante chameaux et quelques fusils.

Le Lieutenant Ruffier et les autres blessés échappés au massacre sont rentrés la nuit, un par un, à Ksar-el-Azoug, très fatigués. Ils ont été dirigés aujourd'hui sur l'hôpital d'Aïn-Sefra.

Les Oulad Djerir ont laissé huit morts sur le terrain. Les autres morts ont été emportés avec les blessés sur les chameaux capturés.

No. 225.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 3, 1903.

THE Sultan's uncle, who is now in the Riff district, is, I understand, in some difficulties. On his application for reinforcements to the Sultan's Deputy here, Sid Mohammed Torres declines to divest Tangier of troops who may be required here, and can only send two machine guns to him. The Spanish Minister has no direct information, but he states that he believes that the Riff tribes are much agitated and are mainly in favour of the Pretender. The Spanish Government may have information as to what is passing as the Sultan's uncle is close to Melilla.

(The above telegram has been sent to His Majesty's Representative at Madrid.)

No. 226.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 3, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 76 of the 3rd instant.

I am informed by the Spanish Minister that the Governor of Melilla has reported to him by telegraph that the Riff tribes in the vicinity of Melilla have proclaimed the Pretender Sultan.

No. 227.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 30. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Madrid, April 3, 1903.

YESTERDAY I called on Foreign Minister, who reverted to the affairs of Morocco, warning me again of the bad influence exerted on M. Delcassé by M. Cambon. He said it was an exceedingly unfortunate thing for Ambassadors also to be politicians, and this was particularly the case when they were connected, as Cambon is, with newspapers and groups of Chauvinist leanings. He appeared to be both irritated and anxious. He spoke in a rather exaggerated manner as to the situation and its dangers, and urged me to press upon your Lordship that it was necessary that the eyes of the French should be opened to the real facts.

I hear from the Italian Ambassador that both Prime Minister and Foreign Minister have used much the same language in conversation with him; he thinks Spanish susceptibilities have been wounded by the rather contemptuous treatment they have received from the French, and that angry feeling is partly the cause of the language they make use of; but he also thinks the intentions of the French are really regarded with alarm by them.

No. 228.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 70.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 27, 1903.

I ASKED the French Minister yesterday whether he knew anything as to a certain Emir Abdelmalek, who, so the journals said, had recently paid a visit to the Pretender on behalf of Bu Amama, the personage who exercises considerable influence over the tribes near the Algerian frontier, and who is always the cause of a certain anxiety both to the French authorities and to the Sultan.

M. Saint Réné Taillandier said that Emir Abdelmalek was a son of Abd-el-Kader, and had, on the death of the latter, declined to accept any pension from the French Government, and had expressed his intention of being under no obligations to the French authorities. He had been for some time in Turkey and, he believed, also in Egypt, and had arrived in Tangier some eight or ten months ago. My French colleague said that he had been watched, but that he was afraid that his supervision had been very faulty, as it was not till quite recently that he had learnt that the Amir had left Tangier some time ago, and had proceeded to the districts near the Algerian frontier, where probably he had made acquaintance with Bu Amama.

M. Saint Réné Taillandier said that he understood that the Amir was a man of about 45 years of age, of no capacity, and of an intriguing character.

He was not in himself a man of any importance, though he acquired a certain position owing to his parentage.

My French colleague was evidently vexed that the Amir had gone towards the Algerian frontier and had entered into relations with Bu Amama; and he did not conceal from me that these two personages might cause some trouble.

He told me that he had had no positive information that the Amir had visited the Pretender, though he thought it was extremely probable that he had done so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 229.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 71. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 27, 1903.

I INQUIRED of the Spanish Minister yesterday whether the French Minister had recently made any mention of a Conference being probably held in regard to Morocco; and M. de Cologan replied that he was on the point of coming to see me on the subject.

He stated that two or three days ago M. Saint Réné Taillandier, in discussing certain local matters with him, including the suggestion to establish wireless telegraphy at Lloyd's signal station, had mentioned that as it appeared that a Conference would shortly assemble, probably at Berlin, to discuss the Morocco question, the small matters which they had been considering could possibly be arranged at the same time. M. Saint Réné Taillandier added that he wished what he had mentioned to be treated as confidential.

I asked M. de Cologan whether he was sure that our French colleague was not referring to a proposed Conference as to wireless telegraphy, as he had mentioned to me that such a convocation was under consideration.

M. de Cologan said that he was quite sure that the French Minister had used the exact words which he had reported; and that as M. Saint Réné Taillandier was a reserved and cautious man, he was confident that the statement was not a hasty or an ill-considered one.

I told M. de Cologan that as it was a question for the Governments to consider it was not a matter to be advantageously discussed locally, though I confessed I was a little puzzled in regard to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 230.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 72.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 27, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that Mr. von Leonhardt, the agent of Sir E. Cassel and Messrs. Stern and Co., returned here yesterday from Fez, having concluded the negotiations for a loan of 300,000*l.* in England. I beg leave to inclose a copy of the Contract, which was drawn up at Fez.

The only point in which it differs from the arrangement with the "Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas" is that the repayments are to commence from the 30th April, 1905, while in the French Contract they commence from the 31st January, 1905. The French Contract was signed in Paris on the 26th November, and in Fez on the 30th December, 1902; and, therefore, the repayments commence in two years and one month after signature in Fez. Mr. von Leonhardt explained to me, that as no money will be drawn on the English loan till April, he made the first repayment due on the 30th April, 1905, thus allowing two years and one month to elapse, as in the French Contract.

Mr. von Leonhardt was permitted to make a copy of the French Contract and satisfied himself that the terms were identical with those laid down in his own Contract; and he also obtained a written assurance, of which I inclose a translation, from the Minister of Finance, that no other Contracts had been concluded either with the French or with any other banks.

A copy of the French Contract is herewith inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 230.

English Contract signed March 18, 1903.

Text of the Order issued by His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan of Morocco.

Praise to God!

HIS Shereefian Majesty has authorized the bank of Messrs. Stern Brothers, 6, Angel Street, London, England, and the bank of the Right Honourable Sir E. Cassel, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., 2, Old Broad Street, London, England, to issue in his name, and that of his Treasury, and as its agents, a number of bonds against the loan contracted between His Shereefian Majesty and the said banks, amounting to 300,000*l.* English, in gold coin; the said bonds shall be of the amount of 40*l.* each and shall be payable to bearer, and the total number of them shall not exceed 7,500, and shall be returned to the Treasury against payment of their amounts until the amount of the loan shall be repaid. They shall be worded in the following form:—

"Loan of 300,000*l.*, English, in gold, for which 7,500 bonds of the value of 40*l.*, English, in gold each have been issued on the basis of the Contract concluded the 18th March, 1903, corresponding to the 18th Hoja, 1320, A.H., between His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco and the banks of Messrs. Stern Brothers, and the Right Honourable Sir E. Cassel, and the interest shall be 6 per cent. yearly, payable quarterly. Wherefore the Minister of Finance to His Shereefian Majesty, as agent for the Treasury, has affixed his signature to the foregoing, and a reproduction of his signature shall be on each bond.

(Signed) "MOHAMMED TAZZI.

"*Fez, March* 18, 1903 (18 *Hoja*, 1320)."

I, James McIver McLeod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, Morocco, hereby certify that the above signature in Arabic character is the true and proper

handwriting of Sid Mohammed ben Abd-el-Krim Tazzi, His Shereefian Majesty's Minister of Finance, and that the English text hereinbefore is a true and faithful translation of the Arabic text signed by the said Minister, which I attest.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

Fez, March 18, 1903.

Praise to God!

Between the two Undersigned, namely: on the first part, the chief Amin Taleb Sid Mohammed ben Abd-el-Krim Tazzi, Minister of Finance to the Shereefian Government of Morocco, representing the said Government in conformity with the instructions issued to him in the Shereefian letter dated the 18th Hoja, 1320, A.H. (the 18th March, 1903, A.D.), of which a copy and translation made by His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, McLeod, is attached to this Contract; and on the second part, the banks of Messrs. Stern Brothers and of Right Honourable Sir E. Cassel, both of London, England, by the intermediary of their representative, Mr. Frederick von Leonhardt (an Englishman).

The following is contracted and arranged in conformity with the Shereefian order.

God glorify it.

The Amin, the Taleb, Sid Mohammed ben Abd-el-Krim Tazzi, Minister of Finance, concludes with the two banks of the afore-mentioned merchants this Contract for the loan from the two said banks of the sum of 300,000*l.*, English, in gold coin, half of it, *i.e.*, 150,000*l.*, from the first-named bank, Messrs. Stern Brothers, and half of it, *i.e.*, 150,000*l.*, from the second-named Bank, the Right Honourable Sir E. Cassel, to His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco, in the name of, and on behalf of, the Shereefian Treasury, upon the conditions mentioned hereinafter, which have been agreed to by both parties:—

Article 1. The two aforesaid banks agree to deliver as a loan to the Shereefian Treasury the sum of 300,000*l.*, English, in gold coin, to be employed by His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco, according to the needs of the Treasury. Interest will be charged by the said bank at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum upon all sums drawn on account of this loan calculated from the date on which each cheque is drawn, as detailed in Article 2 hereinafter, and interest will cease upon all sums from the date on which they are repaid.

Art. 2. His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan will draw the entire loan by means of cheques; and all such cheques will be drawn upon the first-named bank, Messrs. Stern Brothers.

Art. 3. The amount of interest accruing on the sums drawn will be paid on the first day of each quarter, *i.e.*, on the 1st January, the 1st April, the 1st July, the 1st October, in each year, and the first payment in respect of interest shall be made on the 1st July ensuing. The loan shall be repaid in instalments of 6,000*l.*, English, in gold coin every month, and the first payment will be made on the 30th April, 1905, A.D., and the second on the 31st May of that year and so on. All monthly payments shall cease to bear interest from the date of their payment in the manner indicated in Articles 1 and 5.

Art. 4. The two aforesaid banks will receive any sum paid to them over and above the monthly instalment of 6,000*l.*, English, in gold coin agreed upon.

Art. 5. The interest and the monthly instalments shall be paid in gold to the agent of the said banks in Tangier through the Administrators of Customs there, who are under this date instructed by His Shereefian Majesty to attend to the same. The amount of 1,000*l.* in 100,000*l.*, *i.e.*, 1 per cent., will be added to the amounts of payments of capital and interest to defray the expenses of conveying the money to London, England.

Art. 6. His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan will instruct the Administrators of Customs that from this date onward, if the amount in their hands from their receipts should not be sufficient to pay the interest or the monthly instalments, they are to complete the payment from his other revenues, and in any case interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum will be reckoned on each sum whose term is expired and whose payment is deferred.

Art. 7. His Shereefian Majesty has sanctioned a number of bonds of 40*l.* each to be issued to the amount of the loan to cover the engagement made by the aforesaid banks,

as indicated in Article 1, and empowers them to issue these bonds conformably to the authorization annexed to this Contract. The said bonds shall comprise all rights as regards the money borrowed and stipulated for in the foregoing Articles, and for all repayments which the said banks may receive on account of capital they shall return bonds for such amounts to the Administrators of Customs duly cancelled.

This Contract has been concluded at Fez in two copies on the 18th March, 1903 (18th Hoja, 1320, A.H.).

The Minister of Finance,
(Signed) MOHAMMED TAZZI.

(God be gracious to him.)

On behalf of Messrs. Stern Brothers and the Right Honourable Sir E. Cassel, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.

(Signed) F. von LEONHARDT.

I, James McIver Macleod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, Morocco, hereby certify that the above signature in Arabic character is the true and proper handwriting of Sid Mohamed ben Abd-el-Krim Tazzi, His Shereefian Majesty's Minister of Finance, and that the above signature in English character is the true and proper handwriting of Mr. Frederick von Leonhardt, and that the English text hereinbefore is a true and faithful translation of the Arabic text signed by the said Minister, which I attest.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

Fez, March 18, 1903.

Inclosure 2 in No. 230.

French Contract signed at Paris, November 26, 1902, *and at Fez, December* 30, 1902.

Autorisation donnée par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan du Maroc.

EN représentation du prêt de 7,500,000 fr. or qu'il lui est consenti pour compte du Trésor par la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan du Maroc donne à la dite banque l'autorisation de créer au nom et pour le compte du Trésor et ce, à concurrence des versements qu'elle fera sur ce prêt, des obligations au porteur de 1,000 fr. chacune, dont le nombre ne pourra pas excéder 7,500 et qui devront être restituées au Trésor au fur et à mesure des remboursements.

Ces obligations seront conformes au texte ci-après:

Emprunt de 7,500,000 fr. or représenté par 7,500 obligations de 1,000 fr. or chacune, créées en conformité du Contrat intervenu le 26 Novembre, 1902, entre Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan du Maroc et la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, les dites obligations rapportant 6 pour cent d'intérêts annuels, payable par trimestre.

En foi de ce qui précède la présente autorisation a été signée au nom du Trésor par le Ministre des Finances, dont la signatnre sera reproduite sur les titres d'obligations.

(Le Ministre des Finances.)

Fez, le 30 *Décembre*, 1902.

Témoin:
Société des Établissements Gautsch:
Le Directeur,
(Signé) CH. GAUTSC.

Le Sous-Directeur,
(Signé) J. PABARIN.

Vu pour la légalisation des signatures apposées ci-dessus de Mohammed Cheikh Tazzi, Ministre des Finances de Sa Majesté Chérifienne; M. Ch. Gautsch, Directeur de la Société des Établissements Gautsch; et M. J. Pabarin, Sous-Directeur de la même Société.

Le Vice-Consul,
(Signé) HENRI GAILLARD.

(Sceau du Vice-Consulat de France.)

Fez, le 30 *Décembre*, 1902.

Entre les Soussignés, le serviteur de l'Amin-en-chef, Taleb Mohammed ben Abd-el-Krim Ettazzi, Ministre des Finances du Gouvernement Impérial du Maroc, agissant pour le compte du dit Gouvernement, dûment autorisé par lettre Chérifienne en date du , 1902, dont une expédition accompagnée de sa traduction par le Consul, hon. Premier Interprète de la Légation de France à Tanger, est annexée au présent Contrat d'une part; et la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, Société Anonyme dont le siège est à Paris, 3, Rue d'Antin, représentée par M. Eugène Gonin, Président de son Conseil d'Administration; et J. H. Thors, son Directeur-Général de seconde part, il a été convenu et arrêté ce qui suit:—

Louange à Dieu.

En vertu de l'autorisation Chérifienne. (Dieu la glorifie) le serviteur de l'Amin-en-chef, Taleb Mohammed ben Abd-el-Krim Ettazzi, Ministre des Finances, fait avec la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas le présent Contrat pour un prêt de 7,500,000 fr. or à faire par elle à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan du Maroc au nom et pour le compte du Trésor Marocain et ce aux conditions ci-après indiquées, acceptées par les contractants:—

Article 1. La Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas s'engage à avancer au Trésor Marocain à titre de prêt une somme de 7,500,000 fr. or.

Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan du Maroc disposera de ce prêt au fur et à mesure des besoins du Tresor. Les sommes prélevées seront productives à partir de la date de chaque émission de cheque comme il sera dit à l'Article 2, d'un intérêt de 6 pour cent l'an en faveur de la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas. Cet intérêt cessera de courir sur les sommes remboursées à partir de la date de chaque remboursement.

Art. 2. Sa Majesté le Sultan du Maroc disposera du montant du prêt au moyen de cheques sur Paris tirés par lui sur la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas.

Art. 3. Le montant des intérêts dus sur les sommes versées sera payé au commencement de chaque trimestre, soit les 1er Janvier, Avril, Juillet, Octobre de chaque année: le premier paiement d'intérêt sera effectué le 1er Avril, 1903. Le remboursement du capital s'effectuera par versements mensuels de 150,000 fr. or, le premier versement devant etre effectué le 31 Janvier, 1905, le second le 28 Fevier, et ainsi de suite. Les sommes ainsi remboursées cesseront de porter intérêt à la date du versement, ainsi qu'il est stipulé aux Articles 1 et 5 des présents.

Art. 4. La Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas devra accepter tout paiement supérieur à 150,000 fr. or, prévu pour chaque versement mensuel.

Art. 5. Le paiement des intérêts et des mensualités se fera en or remis au mandataire désigné par la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas à Tanger, par la Caisse des Oumanas du port de Tanger, à qui le Sultan donne dès à présent des instructions à cet effet. Les versements des intérêts et capital seront accrus de 1 pour cent, soit de 1,000 fr. pe. 100,000 fr., pour frais de transport des fonds à Paris.

Art. 6. En cas d'insuffisance des sommes encaissées par les Douanes (Oumanas), soit pour paiement des intérêts, soit pour les paiements des mensualités, le Sultan donne dès à présent ordre à son Gouvernement de compléter les paiements ainsi prévus et ce au moyen de ses autres resources.

En tous cas la somme échue et non payée sera productive elle-même d'intérêt au taux de 6 pour cent.

Art. 7. En représentation de l'engagement pris par la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas en vertu de l'Article 1er ci-dessus, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan crée et remet à la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas une autorisation qui est annexée au present Contrat, à l'effet de créer un nombre d'obligations de 1,000 fr. chacune jusqu'à concurrence des sommes prêtées par la dite banque.

Les obligations jouiront de tous les droits stipulés aux termes des Articles précédents en faveur des sommes prêtées.

Dès la réception d'un versement en capital la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas fera remettre a la Caisse des Oumanas le même montant en obligations annullées.

Fait en double exemplaire à Paris, le 26 Novembre, 1902, et à Fez, le 30 Décembre, 1902.

Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas,
(Signé) J. H. THORS.
EUGÈNE GONIN.

Témoin :
Société des Établissements Gautsch :
Le Directeur,
(Signé) CH. GAUTSCH.

Le Sous-Directeur,
(Signé) J. PABARIN.

Vu pour la légalisation des signatures de Mohammed Cheikh Tazzi, Ministre des Finances de Sa Majesté Chérifienne; de M. Ch. Gautsch, Directeur de la Société des Établissements Gautsch; et de M. J. Pabarin, Sous-Directeur de la même Société.

Le Vice-Consul,
(Signé) HENRI GAILLARD.

Fez, le 30 Décembre, 1902.

Inclosure 3 in No. 230.

Mohammed Tazzi to M. von Leonhardt.

(Translation.)

Praise to the one God!

THE esteemed, the wise, the gentleman, the merchant, Frederick von Leonhardt, after inquiring for you, and wishing you may be well always, &c.

Your letter has reached us inquiring whether, on the part of the Moorish Government, God honour it, there is any Contract with the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, other than the one regarding a loan of 7,500,000 fr., which you inspected.

Be informed that there is no Contract except it with the said bank, or with others in the past, or until this date. The end.

(Signed) MOHAMMED TAZZI.

(God be gracious to him!)

16*th Hoja the Sacred*, 1320 A. H.

No. 231.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 4.)

(No. 173.)

My Lord, *Paris, April* 3, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Report by Colonel Stuart-Wortley, Military Attaché to this Embassy, stating that military authorities attach no great importance to attack on French convoy near Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 231.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart-Wortley to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 23.)

Sir, *Paris, April* 3, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, that General Negrier informed me yesterday that the military authorities attached no great importance to the attack on a convoy near Figuig, and that such attacks were always liable to be made when convoys are passing through a country inhabited by turbulent tribes.

It may, however, be remarked that such incidents happening on the frontier of Morocco may lead to important political results, as they serve as a means of pressure to be brought upon the Government by the somewhat restless and aggressively-inclined colonial party, for more active intervention in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. STUART-WORTLEY, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 232.

Sir E. Cassel to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 8.)

My Lord, 21, *Old Broad Street, London, April* 6, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's communication of the 28th March last, and to inclose herewith, for your information, copies of the documents, enumerated on the list hereto annexed, relating to the advance of 300,000*l.* to the Government of Morocco by Messrs. Stern Brothers and myself.

The arrangements for the advance having now been definitely concluded, I would ask your Lordship to be good enough to address to Messrs. Stern Brothers and myself, as contractors for the advance, a letter embodying the terms of your communication to me of the 14th February last, and to Viscount Esher of the 19th February last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. CASSEL.

Inclosure in No. 232.

Memorandum of Documents respecting the Advance of 300,000*l. to the Government of Morocco by Messrs. Stern Brothers and Sir E. Cassel.*

SULTAN'S authorization to the Minister of Finance to borrow.

2. Letter from Minister of Finance, with copy contract of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas.

3. Contract for the advance.

4. Instructions to the Customs officers at the port of Tangier.

5. Sultan's letter authorizing the lenders to issue bonds in the form given.

6. Specimen of Finance Minister's signature.

All dated 18 Hoya, 1320, A.H. (the 18th March, 1903).

April 6, 1903.

Praise to the one God!

(L.S.A.S.M.)

Be it known from this our honourable Edict—may it be observed with zeal and respect—that is to say :—

We have ordered our servant the Honourable the Amin Taleb Mohammed Ben Abdelkrim Tazzi to borrow 300,000*l.* on behalf of the Treasury—God watch over it—from the two banks, namely, Messrs. Stern Brothers and the Right Honourable Sir Ernest Cassel, both of the City of London, England, according to the mercantile custom as regards the taking and repaying of the same, and as detailed in the Articles of the Contract, which has been signed by the said Amin and the representative of the two aforesaid banks, the Englishman, Mr. Frederic von Leonhardt, and officially attested by the English Consul at Fez.

We ratify the same in the terms above mentioned.

Peace.

(Pencil mark of His Shereefian Majesty's approval.)

18 *Hoja*, 1320.

Done in duplicate.

I, James MacIver MacLeod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, Morocco, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and faithful translation of the Shereefian letter hereto attached, dated 18 Hoja, 1320, A.H.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

(Consular Service Stamp, 18/6.)

M. von Leonhardt to Taleb Sid Mohammed Abdelkrim Tazzi, Minister of Finance of His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan of Morocco.

Dear Sir, [*Undated.*]

Kindly confirm to me in writing your statement that the French document referring to a loan of 7,500,000 fr. made with the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, which document has been shown to me, and of which I have taken a copy, is the only Contract made by the Government of Morocco with the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas.

Yours truly,
(Signed) F. VON LEONHARDT.

(Document in Arabic.)

I, James MacIver MacLeod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, Morocco, hereby certify that the above signature in Arabic character is the true and proper handwriting of Sid Mohammed Tazzi, His Shereefian Majesty's Minister of Finance, which I attest.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

Fez, March 20, 1903.

(Seal of British Vice-Consulate, Fez.)

Praise to the one God!

(Translation.)

The esteemed, the wise, the gentleman, the merchant, Frederic von Leonhardt, after inquiries for you and wishing you may be well always.

Your letter reached me, inquiring whether on the part of the Moorish Government, God honour it, there is any other Contract with the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas except the one regarding a loan of 7,500,000 fr. which you inspected. Be informed that there is no Contract, except it, with the said bank, or with others, in the past, or until this date. The end, 16th Hoya, the sacred year 1320 A.H.

(Signed) MOHAMMED TAZZI.

(God be gracious to him.)

(Indorsement.)

I, James MacIver Macleod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Fez, Morocco, hereby certify that the English text overleaf hereof is a true and faithful translation of the Arabic text of the letter of Sid Modammed Tazzi hereto attached, dated 16th Hoya, 1320 A.H.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Fez, March 20, 1903.

(Seal of British Vice-Consulate, Fez.)

Entre les Soussignés,

Le serviteur de l'Amin-en-chef Taleb Mohammed-ben-Abdelkrim Ettazi, Ministre des Finances du Gouvernement Impérial du Maroc.

Agissant pour le compte du dit Gouvernement dûment autorisé par lettre Chérifienne en date du , 1902, dont une expédition, accompagnée de sa traduction par le Consul Honoraire, Premier Interprète de la Légation de France à Tanger, est annexée au présent Contrat, d'une part; et la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, Société Anonyme, dont le siège est à Paris, 3, Rue d'Antin, représenté par MM. Eugène Gonin, Président de son Conseil d'Administration, et J. H. Thors, son Directeur-Général, de seconde part;

Il a été convenu et arrêté ce qui suit:—

Louange à Dieu!

En vertu de l'autorisation Chérifienne (Dieu la glorifie) le serviteur de l'Amin-en-chef, Taleb Mohammed-ben-Abdelkrim Ettazzi, Ministre des Finances, fait avec la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas le présent Contrat pour un prêt de 7,500,000 fr. or à faire par elle à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan du Maroc au nom et pour le compte du Trésor Marocain et ce aux conditions ci-après indiquées acceptées par les contractants.

Article 1. La Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas s'engage à avancer au Trésor Marocain à titre de prêt, une somme de 7,500,000 fr. or.

Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan du Maroc disposera de ce prêt au fur et à mesure des besoins du Trésor. Les sommes prélevées seront productives à partir de la date de chaque émission de chèques comme il sera dit à l'Article 2, d'un intérêt de 6 pour cent l'an en faveur de la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas. Cet intérêt cessera de courir sur les sommes remboursées à partir de la date de chaque remboursement.

Art. 2. Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan du Maroc disposera du montant du prêt au moyen de chèques sur Paris tirés par lui sur la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas.

Art. 3. Le montant des intérêts dus sur les sommes versées sera payé au commencement de chaque trimestre, soit les 1er Janvier, Avril, Juillet, et Octobre de chaque année; le premier paiement d'intérêt sera effectué le 1er Avril, 1903. Le remboursement du capital s'effectuera par versements mensuels de 150,000 fr. or, le premier versement devant être effectué le 31 Janvier, 1905, le second le 28 Février, et ainsi de suite. Les sommes ainsi remboursées mensuellement cesseront de porter intérêt à la date du versement, ainsi qu'il est stipulé aux Articles 1 et 5 des présentes.

Art. 4. La Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas devra accepter tout paiement supérieur aux 150,000 fr. or, prévus pour chaque versement mensuel.

Art. 5. Le paiement des intérêts et des mensualités se fera en or remis au mandataire désigné par la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas à Tanger, par la Caisse des Oumanas du port de Tanger, à qui le Sultan donne dès à présent des instructions à cet effet.

Les versements des intérêts et capital seront accrus de 1 pour cent, soit de 1,000 fr. par 100,000 fr. pour frais de transport des fonds à Paris.

Art. 6. En cas d'insuffisance des sommes encaissées par les Douanes (Oumanas) soit pour le paiement des intérêts, soit pour le paiement des mensualités le Sultan donne dès à présent ordre à son Gouvernement de compléter les paiements ainsi prévus et ce au moyen de ses autres resources.

En tous cas, la somme échue et non payée sera productive elle-même d'intérêts au taux de 6 pour cent.

Art. 7. En représentation de l'engagement pris par la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas en vertu de l'Article 1 ci-dessus, Sa Majesté le Sultan crée et remet à la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas une autorisation qui est annexée au présent Contrat, à l'effet de créer un nombre d'obligations de 1,000 fr. chacune jusqu'à concurrence des sommes prêtées par la dite banque.

Ces obligations jouiront de tous les droits stipulés aux termes des Articles précédents en faveur des sommes prêtées.

Dès la réception d'un versement en capital, la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas fera remettre à la Caisse des Oumanas le même montant en obligations annulées.

Fait en double exemplaire, à Paris, le 26 Novembre, 1902, et à Fez le 30 Décembre, 1902.

Le Ministre des Finances,
(Signé) MOHAMMED TAZZI.

La Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas,
(Signé) J. H. THORS.
EUGÈNE GONIN.

Témoin :
Société des Établissements Gautsch,
Le Directeur,
(Signé) CHARLES GAUTSCH.

Le Sous-Directeur,
(Signé) JEAN FABARES.

Vu pour la légalisation des signatures de Mohammed Cheikh Tazzi, Ministre des Finances de Sa Majesté Chérifienne, de M. Charles Gautsch, Directeur de la Société des Établissements Gautsch, et de M. Jean Fabares, Sous-Directeur de la même Société.

Le Vice-Consul,
(L.S.) HENRI GAILLARD.

(Seal.)

Fez, le 30 Décembre, 1902.

Autorisation donnée par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan du Maroc.

En représentation du prêt de 7,500,000 fr. or qui lui est consenti, pour compte du Trésor, par la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan du Maroc donné à la dite banque l'autorisation de créer, au nom et pour le compte du Trésor et ce, à concurrence des versements qu'elle fera sur ce prêt, des obligations au porteur de 1,000 fr. chacune, dont le nombre ne pourra pas excéder 7,500 et qui devront être restituées au Trésor au fur et à mesure des remboursements. Ces obligations seront conformes au texte ci-après.

Emprunt de 7,500,000 fr. or, représenté par 7,500 obligations de 1,000 fr. or chacune, créées en conformité du Contrat intervenu les 26 Novembre, 1902 entre Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan du Maroc et la Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas ; les dites obligations rapportant 6 pour cent d'intérêts annuels payable par trimestre.

En foi de ce qui précède, la présente autorisation a été signée au nom du Trésor par le Ministre des Finances, dont la signature sera reproduite sur les titres d'obligations.

Le Ministre des Finances,
(Signé) MOHAMMED TAZZI.

Fez, le 30 Décembre, 1902.

Témoin :
Société des Établissements Gautsch,
Le Directeur,
(Signé) CH. GAUTSCH.

Le Sous-Directeur,
(Signé) J. FABARES.

(Initialled) J. M. M.

(Seal of British Vice-Consulate, Fez.)

Vu pour la légalisation des signatures apposées ci-dessus de Mohammed Cheikh Tazzi, Ministre des Finances de Sa Majesté Chérifienne ; M. Charles Gautsch, Directeur

de la Société des Établissements Gautsch ; et M. J. Fabares, Sous-Directeur de la même Société.

Le Vice-Consul,
(L.S.) HENRI GAILLARD.

(Seal.)

Fez, le 30 Décembre, 1902.

No. d'Ordre 36.
Cert. tarif 171.
Perçu 12 fr.—H. G.

(Indorsement.)

I, James MacIver MacLeod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Fez, Morocco, hereby certify that the text hereinbefore inscribed on the five pages marked "J. M. M. 2/6" is a true and faithful copy of the document to which it alludes, which I attest.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

(Seal of British Vice-Consulate, Fez.)

Fez, March 18, 1903.

Praise to God!

Text of the Order issued by His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan of Morocco.

(Translation.)

His Shereefian Majesty has authorized the bank of Messrs. Stern Brothers, 6, Angel Court, London, England, and the Bank of the Right Honourable Sir Ernest Cassel, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., 21, Old Broad Street, London, England, to issue in his name and that of his Treasury and as its Agents, a number of bonds against the loan contracted between His Shereefian Majesty and the said Banks amounting to 300,000*l.* English, in gold coin ; the said bonds shall be of the amount of 40*l.* each, and shall be payable to bearer, and the total number of them shall not exceed 7,500, and shall be returned to the Treasury against payment of their amounts until the amount of the loan shall be repaid. They shall be worded in the following form :—

"Loan of 300,000*l.* English, in gold, for which 7,500 bonds of the value of 40*l.* English, in gold, each have been issued, on the basis of the Contract concluded the 18th March, A.D. 1903, corresponding to the 18th Hoja, 1320, A.H., between His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco and the banks of Messrs. Stern Brothers and of the Right Honourable Sir Ernest Cassel, and the interest shall be 6 per cent. yearly, payable quarterly."

Wherefore the Minister of Finance of His Shereefian Majesty, as agent for the Treasury, has affixed his signature to the foregoing, and a reproduction of his signature shall be on each bond.

The Minister of Finance,
(Signed) MOHAMMED TAZZI.

(God be gracious to him.)

Fez, March 18, 1903 (18*th Hoja*, 1320 A.H.

I, James MacIver MacLeod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, Morocco, hereby certify that the above signature in Arabic character is the true and proper handwriting of Sid Mohammed Ben Abdelkrim Tazzi, His Shereefian Majesty's Minister

of Finance, and that the English text hereinbefore is a true and faithful translation of the Arabic text signed by the said Minister, which I attest.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

(Consular Service Stamps, 1*l.*)

Praise to God!

Between the two Undersigned, namely, on the first part the Chief Amin Taleb Sid Mohammed Ben Abdelkrim Tazzi, Minister of Finance to the Shereefian Government of Morocco, representing the said Government, in conformity with the instruction issued to him in the Shereefian letter dated 18 Hoja, 1320 A.H., corresponding to the 18th March, 1903 A.D., of which a copy and translation made by His Britannic Majesty's Vice Consul in Fez, MacLeod, is attached to this Contract; and on the second part, the Banks of Messrs. Stern Brothers and of the Right Honourable Sir Ernest Cassel, both of London, England, by the intermediary of their representative, Mr. Frederic von Leonhardt, an Englishman.

The following is contracted and arranged in conformity with the Shereefian order.

God glorify it.

The Amin, the Taleb Sid Mohammed Ben Abdelkrim Tazzi, Minister of Finance, concludes with the two banks of the afore-mentioned merchants this Contract for the loan from two said banks of the sum of 300,000*l.* English, in gold coin—half of it, namely, 150,000*l.* from the first-named bank, Messrs. Stern Brothers, and half of it, namely, 150,000*l.* from the second-named bank, the Right Honourable Sir Ernest Cassel —to His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco, in the name and on behalf of the Shereefian Treasury, upon the conditions mentioned hereinafter, which have been agreed to by both parties.

Article 1. The two aforesaid banks agree to deliver as a loan to the Shereefian Treasury the sum of 300,000*l.* English, in gold coin, to be employed by His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco according to the needs of the Treasury. Interest will be charged by the said banks at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum upon all sums drawn on account of this loan, calculated from the date on which each cheque is drawn, as detailed in Article 11 hereafter; and interest will cease upon all sums from the date on which they are repaid.

Art. 2. His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan will draw the entire loan by means of cheques, and all such cheques will be drawn upon the first-named bank, Messrs. Stern Brothers.

Art. 3. The amount of interest accruing on the sums drawn will be paid on the first day of each quarter, namely, on the 1st January, 1st April, 1st July, and 1st October in each year, and the first payment in respect of interest shall be made on the 1st July ensuing. The loan shall be repaid in instalments of 6,000*l.* English, in gold coin, every month, and the first payment will be made on the 30th April, A.D. 1905, and the second on the 31st May of that year, and so on. All monthly payments shall cease to bear interest from the date of their payment in the manner indicated in Articles 1 and 5.

Art. 4. The two aforesaid banks will receive any sum paid to them over and above the monthly instalment of 6,000*l.* English, in gold coin agreed upon.

Art. 5. The interest and the monthly instalments shall be paid in gold to the agent of the said banks in Tangier, through the Administrators of Customs there, who are under this date instructed by his Shereefian Majesty to attend to the same. The amount of 1,000*l.* in 100,000*l.*, that is to say 1 per cent., will be added to the amounts of payments of capital and interest to defray the expenses of conveying the money to London, England.

Art. 6. His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan will instruct the Administrators of Customs that from this date onward, if the amount in their hands from their receipts should not be sufficient to pay the interest or the monthly instalments, they are to complete the payment from his other revenues; and, in any case, interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum will be reckoned on each sum whose term is expired and whose payment is deferred.

Art. 7. His Shereefian Majesty has sanctioned a number of bonds of 40*l.* each to be issued to the amount of the loan, to cover the engagement made by the aforesaid banks, as indicated in Article 1, and empowers them to issue these bonds conformably to the authorization annexed to this Contract. The said bonds shall comprise all rights as regards the money borrowed and stipulated for in the foregoing Articles; and for all repayments which the said banks may receive on account of capital they shall return bonds for such amounts to the Administrators of Customs, duly cancelled.

This Contract has been concluded at Fez, in two copies, on the 18th March, A.D. 1903, corresponding to 18 Hoja, A.H. 1320.

The Minister of Finance,
(Signed) MOHAMMED TAZZI.
On behalf of Messrs. Stern Brorhers and the Right Honourable Sir Ernest Cassel, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.
(Signed) F. VON LEONHARDT.

I, James MacIver MacLeod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, Morocco, hereby certify that the above signature in Arabic character is the true and proper handwriting of Sid Mohammed-ben-Abdelkrim Tazzi, His Shereefian Majesty's Minister of Finance; and that the above signature in English character is the true and proper handwriting of Mr. Frederic von Leonhardt, and that the English text hereinbefore is a true and faithful translation of the Arabic text signed by the said Minister, which I attest.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

Fez, March 18, 1903.

(Consular Service Stamps, 2*l.* 15*s.*)

Copy of a Shereefian Letter. The text after the usual invocations and the Shereefian Seal.

(Translation.)

Praise to the one God!

To our servant the Honourable Administrators of Customs of the Port of Tangier, the protected of God, God be gracious to you, peace upon you and the mercy of God and afterwards.

WHEREAS it was necessary to assist the Treasury—God make it prosperous—for the benefit of the people by raising a sum of money, we ordered our servant the Honourable the Treasurer, Taleb Sid Mohammed-ben-Abdelkrim Tazzi, to obtain the same by means of a loan from certain banks. He therefore obtained on behalf of the Treasury—may God prosper it—the sum of 300,000*l.* English from the two banks, namely, Messrs. Stern Brothers and the Right Honourable Sir Ernest Cassel, both of the City of London, England, according to mercantile custom to wit at an interest of 6 per cent. per annum, plus 1 per cent. to defray the expense of remitting the money to London, England, if it be repaid in coin, but if it be repaid in cheques or banknotes nothing beyond the said 6 per cent. per annum is to be charged. The payment of the said money from the aforesaid two banks, and its repayment to them, will be according to the Articles of Contract concluded with them on the matter, by which the repayment of the aforesaid money will be by means of instalments of 6,000*l.* in gold every month after the expiry of two years from this date. The first instalment is to be repaid on the last day of April of the year 1905. Against each monthly instalment an equivalent value in bonds of the 7,500 bonds issued on behalf of the Treasury by the aforesaid two bank for the amount of the loan, and whose amount is 40*l.* each, is to be delivered.

So we command you to make payment of the aforesaid monthly instalments, from the date before mentioned, to the agent of the said two banks against delivery of an equivalent value of the said bonds, and to inscribe the same with the details of the dates on the margin, or on the back of this Shereefian letter, with the signatures of yourselves and the agent referred to, and to proceed in this manner until the whole amount borrowed is, by the power of God, repaid.

With respect to the interest before mentioned, there is to be paid to the agent of the said two banks, on the last day of each three months, such sum as will be due upon such amount as will have been borrowed from the said two banks by means of cheques.

And you will be advised of the latter by the Treasurer mentioned therein before, who will state how much has been received, and what interest is due upon it, and the dates of receipts.

You are to inscribe a copy of this our letter on the first page of a book you will keep specially for this purpose, and you are to return this letter to the agent of the said two banks, to be retained by him for the purpose of having the various sums repaid indorsed upon it, as above described, until the whole loan is repaid, whereupon he (the agent) shall, if it please God, return it to you.

Peace.

Sanctioned by our Shereefian command, honoured of God, the 18 Hoja, 1320 A.H.

(Pencil mark of His Shereefian Majesty's approval.)

I, James MacIver MacLeod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, Morocco, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and faithful translation of the Shereefian letter, dated 18 Hoja, 1320 A.H., hereinbefore inscribed.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

(Stamp, 2*l.*)

Fez, March 18, 1903.

Copy of a Shereefian Letter whose text after invocations here below and the Shereefian Seal, as follows.

(Translation.)

Praise to the one God!

(L.S.A.S.M.)

(After greeting.)

We have empowered by this our Shereefian order the two banks, namely, that of Messrs. Stern Brothers and the Right Honourable Sir Ernest Cassel, both of the City of London, England, to issue in the name of the Treasury—God make it prosperous—as its agents, a number of bonds on account of the loan contracted between the Treasury and the two aforesaid banks, amounting to 300,000*l.*, which bonds will be of the value of 40*l.* each, payable to bearer, and will be returnable to the Treasury in exchange for payment of their value, until the whole amount of the loan is repaid.

The text of the bonds will be in this form, namely, "Loan, amount 300.000*l.* in gold coin, made against 7,500 bonds of the walue of 40*l.* each, on the basis of the Contract concluded on the 18th Hoja, 1320, A.H., corresponding to the 18th March, A.D. 1903, between the Minister of Finance representing the Shereefian Treasury in conformity with his signature reproduced on each one of the aforesaid bonds, and the representative of the two aforesaid banks."

Written on the 18th Hoja 1320 A.H.

(Pencil mark of His Shereefian Majesty's approval.)

I, James MacIver MacLeod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Fez, Morocco, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and faithful translation of the Shereefian letter of which a certified copy is attached hereto, and which is dated 18th Hoja, 1320 A.H.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

(Seal of British Vice-Consulate, Fez.)

Fez, March 19, 1903.

(Document in Arabic.)

I, James MacIver MacLeod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consuul, Fez, Morocco, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and faithful copy of the Shereefian letter dated the 18th Hoja, 1320 A.H., which I attest.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

(Seal of British Vice-Consulate, Fez.)

Fez, March 19, 1903

Praise to the one God!

(Translation.)

The esteemed, the wise, the gentlemen, the merchants Stern Brothers, after inquiring about you and wishing you may be well always, we inform you that the signature which will be on the cheques which will be drawn upon you in respect of the loan to the Shereefian Treasury—God prosper it—will be as depicted here below. The end 20 Hoja, 1320 A.H.

(Signed) MOHAMMED TAZZI.
(God be gracious to him.)

I, James MacIver MacLeod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Fez, Morocco, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and faithful translation of the Arabic text on the back hereof. And that the signature in Arabic character on the back hereof is the true and proper handwriting of Sid Mohammed Tazzi, His Shereefian Majesty's Minister of Finance.

(Signed) H. M. MACLEOD,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

(Stamp, 10*s.*)

Fez, March 19, 1903.

Annex 1.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Cassel.

Foreign Office, February 14, 1903.

Dear Sir E. Cassel,

WITH regard to our conversation of yesterday as to a possible advance to the Sultan of Morocco, I find that the formula which has been used by the British Government on previous occasions to signify its approval of loan transaction has been the following:—

"His Majesty's Government consent to take note of this promise, or to recognize the assignment of the revenues specially appropriated for the service of the loan, as a binding engagement on the part of the Government.

We should be prepared to use similar language in the present case.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Annex 2.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Lord Esher.

Foreign Office, February 19, 1903.

My dear Esher,

THE formulas quoted in my letter of the 14th have never been used as mere figures of speech.

What the British Government has intended to convey to them is this. That we approve the transaction and recognize its validity, and that, in the event of the borrower repudiating or disregarding his obligation, we shall afford support to the lender in pressing for the fulfilment of the Contract.

It would, however, obviously be necessary that His Majesty' Government should be free to decide the shape in which such support would be given.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 233.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 151.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 8, 1903.

DURING my interview with the French Ambassador to-day, I took the opportunity of saying that our Ambassador at Madrid reported to us that the Spanish Government were seriously uneasy with regard to the outlook in Morocco. They were apparently convinced that Great Britain and France had arrived at an understanding for a partition of territory or of spheres of influence in that country, and nothing would convince them to the contrary.

I said that I had made more than one attempt to reassure them, and that I had stated emphatically that it was our policy to deal with questions concerning Morocco in concert with Spain as well as France.

M. Cambon expressed his entire agreement, and referred to the recent negotiations for loans to Morocco from France, Spain, and England as an illustration of our desire that Spain should not be left out of consideration.

His Excellency observed that these suspicions were largely due to the unfortunate telegram published some weeks ago in the "Times." All we could do, his Excellency thought, was to repeat our assurances.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 234.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 78.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Gibraltar, April* 9, 1903.

MULEY AMRANI, the uncle of the Sultan has fled to Melilla for refuge, and it is said that the Pretender with a large body of men has advanced to within a few miles of that place.

I have received information from Fez which tends to show that all the tribes in the Taza district, still adhere to the Pretender's cause, and that the offers of submission which have been received by the Moorish Government came from isolated individuals only.

It appears that His Shereefian Majesty himself now contemplates advancing on Taza.

(Repeated to His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.)

No. 235.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 79.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Gibraltar, April* 11, 1903.

A FORT belonging to the Moorish Government near Melilla, is still holding out against the Pretender's forces.

They are sending reinforcements to it from Tangier, and Hadj Mohammed Torres has asked leave from the Spanish Government to land them in Spanish territory

M. de Cologan has referred the matter to his Government.

It is said that Bu Hamara is about 15 miles distant from Melilla.

No 236.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 13.)

(No. 75.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 2, 1903.

THE Sultan's Deputy here received the day before yesterday a telegram viâ Melilla from Mulay Amrani, requesting him to send to him without delay all the troops with guns who were in Tangier.

As I had the honour to inform your Lordship in my telegram of the 31st January, Mulay Amrani had been dispatched to the Riff country to raise levies for an attack on the Pretender from the north; but he appears to have made no progress towards attaining the object of his mission.

In his telegram to the Sultan's Deputy, he gave no reasons for his request for reinforcements. Hadj Mohammed Torres replied that, in view of the unsettled condition of affairs in this neighbourhood, he did not feel justified in denuding Tangier of its garrison, and recommended Mulay Amrani to apply to the Moorish Government for any assistance of which he may be in need.

I have had no trustworthy information as to the situation in the Riff country, but the Spanish Minister tells me that he understands that the majority of the tribes are in favour of the Pretender.

I may add that Mulay Arafa, the other uncle of the Sultan, has arrived at Oojdah, but I have not heard any news as to what he may be accomplishing in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S. *April* 4.—Since writing the above the Spanish Minister has informed me that he received last evening a telegram from the Governor of Melilla, stating that all the Riff tribes in the vicinity of that town had proclaimed the Pretender.

A. N.

No. 237.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 13.)

(No. 76.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 3, 1903.

THE information which I have received during the last few days from Fez is a little conflicting, the Moorish Government asserting that the back of the rebellion is completely broken, and the Pretender incapable of causing any further trouble; while others, who are less directly interested, report that matters are very much in the same position as formerly, and that the Pretender is still at Taza.

No military movements are, so far as my information goes, being made on either side, and the campaign has curiously been diverted into an epistolary duel. The Pretender is scattering broadcast throughout the country through his emissaries appeals for adherents, accompanied by denunciations of the Sultan and his Government, on account of their lapses from Islamism; while the Sultan has circulated throughout the principal towns and districts manifestoes signed by the Chief Ulema of Fez, asserting that His Majesty is most scrupulous in his religious observances, and a trustworthy defender of the faith, and that the Pretender, in raising his hand against the Caliph, is guilty of the most heinous of crimes. Both sides quote copiously from the Koran in support of their respective theses.

I am afraid, from what I am able to gather, that the addresses of the Pretender are the more willingly listened to; and some consider that the Circular of the Sultan was not well advised, or in harmony with the dignity of his position.

Desertions from the Sultan's forces are, I am told, becoming numerous owing to the high prices which are ruling at Fez for provisions and forage. On the other hand, one or two of the tribes in the Taza district have shown some disposition to desert the cause of the Pretender, and come to terms with the Government; and the latter are very skilful in their methods of sowing dissensions and mutual distrust among their adversaries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 238.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 13.)

(No. 77.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 3, 1903.

THE Spanish Minister informed me to-day that the Moorish Government had intimated their readiness to accept a loan from Spain, but required that the payments should commence not earlier than four years from the date of the signature of the Contract instead of two years, as in the case of the English and French loans.

M. de Cologan did not view with much satisfaction this difference in the periods, as he feared that as the English and French loans would be paid off some time before the Spanish, there might be considerable difficulty, should any defaults occur, in Spain alone being able to bring the necessary pressure to bear on the Moorish Government. He had telegraphed to his Government on this point, and had strongly recommended that in all particulars the Spanish loan should be placed on exactly the same footing as the others.

It seems to me that the Spanish Minister is unduly anxious. In the first place, I much doubt if the two loans already contracted will, in fact, be entirely repaid by 1908; and, secondly, there is the engagement on the part of the Moorish Government to pay interest on all deferred payments. I understand it is the Colonial Bank of Spain which is ready to advance the money.

I am told that very nearly the whole of the French loan has been expended; and no doubt, the Moorish Government will soon be desirous of drawing on the sources open to them from London.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 239.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 13.)

(No. 80.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Gibraltar, April* 13, 1903.

MY telegram No. 79 of the 11th instant.

I have the honour to report that the Spanish Minister M. de Cologan has informed me that his Government are disinclined to permit Moorish Government to land reinforcements in Spanish territory.

The Sultan is sending 1,000 men to assist Muley Amerani, who is in Melilla, from Fez, but the latter has telegraphed to Hadj Mohammed Torres, that many more troops will be required.

The besieged garrison is still holding out.

The Spanish Governor of the Chaffarina Islands has telegraphed that the Kebdana tribe, some of whom are for the Pretender and some for the Government, are fighting among themselves.

(Madrid informed.)

No. 240.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 81.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 14, 1903.

THE Kasbah near Melilla, which was besieged by the rebels, has now been captured and the garrison has taken refuge in Spanish territory.

Hadj Mohammed Torres will, therefore, not send on the reinforcements asked for, which are now on their way down from the capital.

It may now be considered that the whole of the Riff is lost to the Government.

Unless the Sultan is able to take some decisive measure the situation will become very serious for him, as I understand that the movement in favour of the Pretender is spreading.

Sir Mortimer Durand informed.

No. 241.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 82.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 14, 1903.

I HAVE been informed by M. Saint-Réné Taillandier that news has to-day been received from Fez to the effect that Menebhi has earnestly advised the Sultan, and that His Majesty has, in consequence, decided to send all the Europeans in the employ of the Moorish Government provisionally away from Court.

Kaïd Maclean and the other English instructors, as well as the French Military Mission, would be affected by this measure. M. Taillandier has sent a telegram to his Government recommending strongly that no difficulties be made regarding the withdrawal of the French Military Mission, and he expects that they will agree to the proposal.

Sir H. Maclean has said nothing to me on the subject, though he stated in his last letter that he had been privately informed by the Sultan that the Minister of War had used strong language against the influence of the English. There was no reason given for this change of front on his part.

The object, apparently, of removing Europeans is to appease the agitation against the Sultan which has arisen on account of his European tendencies.

I will telegraph further to your Lordship when I hear from Sir H. Maclean, whose version of the matter I should like to have.

No. 242.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 84.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 15, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 82 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a letter from Sir H. Maclean confirming the news communicated to me by the French Minister; but he states that on reconsidering the matter His Majesty has decided that he and the others are to remain.

Sir H. Maclean thinks that were the measure of suddenly dismissing all Europeans in Shereefian employ from Fez adopted, hostility to Christians throughout the country might indeed be encouraged and the measure be regarded as a sign of the Government's weakness.

Both Ben Sliman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Tazzi, the Minister for Finance, were of this opinion, in which I entirely concur.

I informed M. Saint-René Taillandier when he spoke to me on the matter yesterday that I doubted the wisdom of adopting the proposal at this juncture, and that at all events it required very careful consideration

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No. 243.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 85.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 16, 1903.

THE news that the Sultan's uncle, Mulay Arafa, who was on the Algerian frontier, and also the Governor of Oujda, have been compelled to take refuge in Algeria is confirmed by the French Minister. It appears that the whole of the eastern part of Morocco has declared against the Sultan.

The mountaineers have threatened to pillage Arzila, a place about 25 miles from here on the coast. I have received an urgent appeal for help from that place; assistance is being sent by the authorities.

The tribes round Tetuan are, I am told, becoming agitated; anarchy, in short, appears to be spreading, and the situation of the Sultan will be most precarious unless he speedily takes vigorous measures.

With regard to the southern portion of Morocco, I have received no recent news.

No. 244.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 17, 1903.*

I REGRET to report that news has reached me from Fez to the effect that the Sultan is ill, and that Menebhi is anxious regarding his condition. As yet no medical report has reached me, but the situation will be still further complicated should His Majesty be prevented from heading the proposed expedition.

Sir H. Maclean, Major Ogilvy, and the other English instructors are apparently remaining in Fez, but several Europeans are leaving the capital for Tangier.

I think, on further consideration of the matter, that I had better leave this question alone, and leave the Sultan and the Moorish Government to settle it by themselves. I need not necessarily express an opinion, as I have not been asked, and I might only confuse matters by sending instructions to Kaïd Maclean.

They appear to be continually changing their minds on the subject at Court.

I should be grateful to know if your Lordship concurs in this view.

No. 245.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 79.)
My Lord, *Gibraltar, April 9, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch, with its inclosure, which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, giving some interesting and apparently trustworthy news as to the movements of the Pretender.

There is, I think, but little doubt that the Pretender is in close proximity to Melilla, as the Spanish Minister received a telegram from the Governor of Melilla, stating that Muley Amrani had taken refuge in that place. M. de Cologan had also been informed, but he begged that this might be considered confidential, that the Pretender had sent a letter to the Spanish authorities at Melilla requesting them not to give asylum to Muley Amrani. The Moorish steamer which was sent with some machine-guns for Muley Amrani has returned to Tangier without having disembarked them, and she brought information that the Pretender was at a place called Zebuja, about seven or eight hours distant from Melilla, with a large force.

I would beg leave to call your Lordship's attention to the statements of Mr. MacLeod's informant as to the feeling of the tribes in the Taza district towards the Pretender. The offers of submission which were reported to have been made by the Ghiata and other tribesmen, and which led the Moorish Government to assume that the people in the Taza district were ready to renounce the cause of the Pretender, appear to have emanated from only a few individuals on whose property their fellow tribesmen inflicted very prompt measures of retaliation.

The Sultan, from private information which I have received from Fez, appears to contemplate placing himself at the head of an expedition against Taza. If this be undertaken, I trust that all precautions will be adopted for insuring its success; and above all, that measures will be taken for maintaining a regular supply of provisions.

The Minister for War told Sir H. Maclean that the true reason for his return to Fez was that his columns were practically without food, and that for three days no forage could be provided for the animals.

The so-called Pretender alluded to in Mr. MacLeod's despatch is evidently the Algerian Emir in regard to whom I have already reported to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 245.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 41.)
Sir, *Fez, April 2, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the report made to me by a Bernusi tribesman—the same who went recently to Melilla, who has just this afternoon returned from Taza district.

I would remark, particularly, the news he gives as to the position in Ghiata and the Pretender's plans and movements, and also his information about the appearance of what may prove, perhaps, to be another Pretender between Debdou and Kasbah Al Msun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 245.

Report of Saïd-el-Bernusi to Vice-Consul MacLeod.

I LEFT Fez on Thursday morning, the 26th March, and slept at Walad Selim, in Hiaina. Next day, about sunset, I reached Nahakhassa, Wad-el-Hadar, on the west border of Branes. On Saturday I spent the day at the market called Sok-els Sebt-al Wurbah, a sept of Branes, and reached my family in Walad Rahmon that evening. On Sunday, the 29th March, early in the morning, I entered Taza.

Next day, the 30th March, I went to Ahl-Tahir, in Ghiata, and Tuesday, the 31st March, I reached Kasbah-beni-Stittin, in Hiaina. On Wednesday, the 1st April, I passed most of the day in the Wednesday market of Hebija, and slept at Inewen, and proceeded to Fez next day.

In Hiaina, from Kasbah-beni-Stittin and Kasbah Jebel Abdel Krim eastwards, the people still say, God give the victory to Muley Mohammed (the Pretender), but the Western Hiaina people have returned to their villages, and are loyal to the Sultan, but so far as I could observe they were saying this more out of fear of their Ghiata and other neighbours than of any affection for the Pretender.

All the districts through which I passed were perfectly peaceful, the Government and Pretender's tribes trading in each other's markets quite freely.

At Wad-el-Hádûr I met one of the men of Branes I had come to see—one Sid Allal Oold-el-Kaïd Stitu, and at Sok-es-Sebt I met three others.

Their names were:—

1. Mohammed-ben-Ali Rahmoni.
2. Mohammed-ben-Hamed, of Gurari's people.
3. Si-el-Hsin-ben-Mohammed Rahmoni.

All the foregoing are Branes tribesmen.

But the principal man whom I had expected to meet is Sheikh Hamed-el-Gurari; Bultham-el-Hamwiyi, Sheikh Sireej Wuld-el-Mokhtar, and Mohammed-ben-Kadur-el-Huladi, were all absent with the Pretender.

I persuaded the men I did find to promise to accompany me to Fez under safe conduct, to negotiate for a settlement with the Sultan. We parted at Wad Rahmon, and engaged to meet again in Ghiata, at Akba-beni-Megara, in Ahl Tahir, where they subsequently rejoined me. Meantime I went to Taza. I went to the mosque of Sidi Aziz, as directed by you, and found Si Hamed Benkiran at the Mihrab, leading the prayers. After prayers he took me to his house, where he recounted recent events as follows:—

Buhamara entered Taza on Saturday preceding the Sheep Feast (7th March) in rather a broken way and accompanied by only thirty men, horsemen of Wad-el-Hadur, Meknena-al-Tahtaria of the sept called Beni Ali and a few Sheraga men. On Sunday, the 8th March, horsemen reached him, however, from all sides, until the town was quite crowded, and he spent the day receiving them. On Monday (9th March), he arrested the Shereef Oold Sidi Hossein-ben-Abd-el-Jelil, Elwazzani, Wazzani of Taza, suspecting him (I presume) of corresponding with the Court.

The Beni Ujan, sept of the Ghiata, were furious at this—demanded the Shereef's

release—and threatened to break the prison and take him out if refused. Thereupon, the principal people sacrificed to the Pretender, beseeching him, for the sake of peace, to liberate the Shereef, which he did. Next day, Tuesday (10th March), the Sheep Feast was celebrated.

Deputations of tribes from all sides, with tribute, attended the Pretender, and the festival was kept with all the usual feasting, powder play, and the like. The tribes, &c., which brought tribute, were :—

Taza townspeople.	Ulad Bu Rima.
Ghiata.	Maghawa (neighbours of Ulad Bu Rima).
Huara, Arabs.	Ulad Bekkar.
Hlef, Arabs.	Branes.
Bu Rashdi (Kasbah Msun).	Meknessa.
Metalsa.	Tsul.
Guelaya.	Sinhajja Reddo.
Gueznaia.	

Practically, all the foregoing went home after the festival. On Thursday (19th March), Buhamara, accompanied by only about 100 horsemen, left Taza, and slept at Meknessa-al-Inkania, where he was met by more horsemen.

Next day (20th March), with about 300 horsemen, he went to Kasbah-el-Msun, and was received with rejoicings. He stayed there three days. On Monday (23rd March), he marched to Sidi Kassim, in Mtalsa, stayed the night there, and next day, Tuesday (24th March), marched to Ain Zora, in Risha-Mtalsa, where he remained till Saturday (25th March). He then marched to Zebouja, in Jebel-beni Bu Zahia, which is the latest news of his movements. Sid Hamid had heard that Buhamara contemplated making a night march and attack from Zebouja, upon Kasbah Jenada, near Melilla, near which the tribesmen were assisting the Sultan. This done, Buhamara intended to go to Kasbah Ain Sidi Mûlûk. The Beni Bouzeggou are reported to have assured Buhamara that they will resist Mulai Arafa if the latter enters their lands from Oojda. But Beni Buzeggou wished to remain neutral and give allegiance to the victor, if undisturbed; but, of course, if Buhamara began to threaten them actively from Ain Sidi Mûlûk, they might join him.

When I reached Tsul on my outward journey I heard stories of a Shereef who had come from Sidi Ali-ben-Samakh, accompanied by Ulad Sidi Ali, part of Mahaia, Ulad Sidi Mohammed-ben-Hamed part of Shijah, Ulad Amar, and Ulad Sidi Mohammed-ben-Hamed and Haladuir, and had entered and taken possession of Debdou just before the recent Sheep Feast (say about the 10th March) ostensibly in support of the Pretender. He, the Shereef, arrested four Notables of Debdou on a charge of disaffection to Buhamara. Thereafter he set out from Debdou for Kasbah-el-Msun, and he then wrote to Buhamara for instructions as to punishing those prisoners. Buhamara answered him to do whatever he pleased in the matter, but thereupon Buhamara sent for the Huara (Arab tribe east of Taza); they came. He inquired whether they felt themselves a match for this Shereef. They said, yes.

He then gave them twenty camel-loads of barley and 140 sheep for delivery to this Shereef if he were found to be a sincere friend of Buhamara's. But on no account was this Shereef to be allowed to enter Kasbah-el-Msun. There was much talk about this Shereef in all the Taza district, some people affirming him to be a grandson of Hadj Abdel Kader-el-Asûli (the famous Hadj Abdel Kader in Algeria), and others, that he is a Tafilelt Shereef.

But whoever he is, he is now located between Debdou and Kasbah-el-Msun.

I left Taza on Monday morning (30th March). About noon on Monday I met my Branes friend, as arranged, at Akba-beni-Megara, and we all went on to Ahl Tahir and slept there. We met on Monday forenoon a lot of horsemen at Akba beni-Megara and on inquiring what they were doing we were told they were gallopers, sent to summon the Ghiata tribe of that locality to burn certain villages at Kraret, in Ahl Tahir-Ulad Ayesh, some of whose inhabitants had gone to Fez, to negotiate with the Court. Next day (31st March) the Ghiata of the district assembled and we, my friends and I, saw them burn the ten dwellings of the men who had gone to Fez. Their relatives protested their non-complicity in the men's mission, and so their houses were spared. On seeing these burnings my friends stopped and refused to proceed with me to Fez. They were convinced the Ghiata were not negotiating sincerely or unanimously with the Court, and feared their vengeance, should they (Branes) attempt to come to a settlement with the Sultan. Such a negotiation would (they said) be premature just now—but by-and-bye—

whenever the right moment arrived, they would come to me at Fez, and try and arrange matters.

At Kasbah-beni-Stittin next morning, I was told by Ghiata people marketing there, that on that day (1st April) the Beni Mtir sept of Ghiata, some of whom were also now in Fez, were next day to be burned out.

Inclosure 3 in No. 245.

Map in Illustration of Inclosure 1 in Vice-Consul MacLeod's No. 41.

[Not printed.]

No. 246.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April 18.*)

(No. 80.)

My Lord, *Gibraltar, April 9, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Sultan deputed Cid Abderrahman-ben-Abdelsadik, Governor of Fez, to proceed to Gibraltar to welcome the King in his name.

His Majesty was pleased to receive the Moorish Envoy yesterday afternoon at Government House, and I beg leave to transmit translation of the speech which the Envoy made on that occasion and a copy of the King's reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 246.

Speech of the Moorish Envoy, Cid Abderrahman-ben-Abdelsadik, to His Majesty the King.

(Translation.)

PRAISE to God, the Creator of the nations and peoples, who selects those whom He chooses for that which He pleases, according to His wisdom; great in the heavens and on earth—the wise, the exalted—Who joins nations in friendship according to His will!

After greeting your Majesty with due respect, I humbly request your Majesty to listen to this message:—

When your Majesty's friend, our Lord, the Sultan of Morocco, His Shereefian Majesty Abd-el-Aziz (may God continue to give him His assistance!), heard of your Majesty's intention to visit your Colony of Gibraltar, he honoured me by appointing me to represent His Shereefian Majesty on this Mission to meet your Majesty, and to congratulate you and the exalted British Government on your auspicious arrival and to heartily welcome your Majesty to the spot which unites your kingdom to the Shereefian dominions, and to express the great joy and happiness felt by His Shereefian Majesty at your Majesty's visiting a place in such close proximity to his Empire.

I have the honour to convey to your Majesty the message of friendship with which I have been intrusted by His Shereefian Majesty, and I trust that your Majesty will graciously accept this Mission, and extend such consideration to it as accords with the bonds of friendship which unite the two countries.

I trust that your Majesty and your exalted nation may have continued glory, increasing blessings, and entire success in your undertakings.

Inclosure 2 in No. 246.

Speech of His Majesty the King to the Moorish Envoy.

I AM particularly gratified in receiving from His Shereefian Majesty the evidence of the good feeling and friendship which he has shown in deputing your Excellency to welcome me in his name on my visit to this town. It gives me especial pleasure to have an opportunity of expressing, through you, to His Majesty my sentiments of warm friendship towards His Majesty's person and country; and I request your Excellency to

convey to your Sovereign my sincere and constant desire for his prosperity and welfare. I am pleased that your Excellency has been selected for the Mission with which His Majesty has charged you, as, unfortunately, I was unable to receive you when you came to my Court last year. I shall take an early opportunity of replying to the letter which you have handed to me from His Majesty; and I request you, on your return to the Court of His Shereefian Majesty, to convey my best thanks for his friendly and courteous attention, which has caused me much pleasure and which I appreciate most highly.

No. 247.

Messrs. Stern Brothers to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 18.)

My Lord, 6, *Angel Court, London, April* 17, 1903.

WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's communication of the 10th instant, and to state, in reply, that the cheque books for the Morocco Government had to be specially printed, and that they were delivered to us only after we had received advice of drafts by the Morocco Government, so that it appeared useless to forward them.

The telegraphic advices which we have received from our agents in Tangier refer to one draft for 112,000*l.* drawn to the order of Messrs. Coutts and Co., and a later one for 188,000*l.* drawn to the order of Sir Harry Maclean.

With reference to the first draft, the documents submitted to us by Messrs. Coutts and Co. consist of a paper in Arabic, to which is affixed what purports to be a translation, unattested, of the original.

Messrs. Coutts and Co. subsequently furnished us with copies of a letter from Sir Harry Maclean and from Sir Arthur Nicolson to them in regard to this matter.

We have, after consultation with Sir Ernest Cassel, deferred payment, for reasons which we have explained to Messrs. Coutts and Co. in a letter, of which we have the honour to inclose a copy, as also copies of the before-mentioned documents.

In the ordinary course of business, a payment would not be made upon documents of this character, but, under the special circumstances of the case, His Majesty's Government may desire that the usual formalities should be dispensed with, and that the payment should be made.

In awaiting an expression of opinion on this point, we also venture to remind your Lordship that we are anxious to receive from His Majesty's Government the formal letter relating to the advance to Morocco, for which, we understand, Sir Ernest Cassel applied some weeks ago.

We have, &c.
(Signed) STERN BROTHERS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 247.

Messrs. Stern Brothers to Messrs. Coutts and Co.

(Confidential.)
Gentlemen, *London, April* 17, 1903.

REFERRING to the Memorandum we sent you yesterday, we beg to state that we are not prepared as yet to pay you on account of the Morocco Government the amount of 112,000*l.*

We have received advice of a draft of 112,000*l.* to the order of your firm.

Instead of this, you have presented to us a document in Arabic, which we do not understand, and attached thereto what purports to be a translation, unattested, to the following effect:—

"Praise to God alone!

"*Fez, 7th Moharram,* 1321 (*April* 6, 1903).

"To the friend, the intelligent respected gentleman Sir Stern and his respected brothers, Bankers, of 6, Angel Court, London, England.

"(After compliments.)

"We have received from the Englishman Kaïd Sir Harry Maclean, at Fez, 112,000*l.*, so therefore pay to him that sum, *i.e.*, 112,000*l.*, and debit it to the account or the Shereefian Treasury Loan.

(Signed) "MOHAMMED TAZZI."

Upon the back of this Arabic document the following was inscribed:—

"Messrs. Stern Brothers, 6, Angel Court.

"We are placing the within-mentioned sum of 112,000*l.* to the credit of Sir H. Maclean in our books for the Sultan.

(Signed) "COUTTS AND CO."

And to-day there is added: "and we hereby guarantee Messrs. Stern Brothers against any loss or damage arising from the payment of the amount without the endorsement of the payee.

(Signed) "COUTTS AND CO."

We are consulting our solicitors as to whether, without running any undue risk, we can make to you the payment which you claim, and we shall also have to consult His Majesty's Government.

We hope to let you know definitely by next Monday or Tuesday how we are prepared to deal with this matter.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) STERN BROTHERS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 247.

Sir A. Nicolson to Messrs. Coutts and Co.

(Private.)
Gentlemen, *The Convent, Gibraltar, April* 11, 1903.

I AM forwarding, in a separate cover, a letter from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean in regard to certain loan transactions. I have asked the Legation Interpreter to translate the order from the Minister of Finance. I have not telegraphed, as suggested by Sir H. Maclean, to Messrs. Stern, as these matters are outside my province, and I have no concern with them. I have, however, informed Mr. Pariente, of Tangier, who are the agents of Messrs. Stern, and no doubt they will take the necessary steps.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 247.

Kaïd Sir H. Maclean to Messrs. Coutts and Co.

Gentlemen, *Fez, April* 6, 1903.

I HAVE received the inclosed order on Messrs. Stern Brothers' Bank in connection with Sir E. Cassel for 112,000*l.* Kindly present the order and place the amount to the credit of my separate account for His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan of Morocco.

I have given the Amin Sheik Tazzi ninety cheques as per inclosed list, in all amounting to 112,000*l.* the amount of the order. As these cheques are presented, please pay them and debit my separate account for His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan of Morocco with them.

I am sending the order to his Excellency, Sir Arthur Nicolson, asking him to kindly have the order translated, and to send the translation with the order. I have also asked his Excellency, Sir A. Nicolson, to inform Messrs. Stern Brothers and Sir E. Cassel of this order, so as to prepare them to meet it.

I have told the Amin Sheik Tazzi that he must hold over these cheques for five days to give you time to collect the money.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HARRY MACLEAN.

No. 248.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 18.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, April* 18, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report in reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 16th instant, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom I have seen, appears less anxious about the situation in Morocco than I expected to find him.

The Commander at Melilla must, I think, have received from both sides assurances of a satisfactory nature. He has apparently no fear of being attacked. My attention was drawn by Minister of Foreign Affairs to a leading article in the newspaper "Le Temps," which advocates that a road to Fez should be built on the pattern of the road to Cabul through the Khyber, and his Excellency said that the proposal clearly showed the aims of the French. Señor Abarzuza inquired, in a rather nervous manner, whether it was likely that the attitude of England in regard to the *status quo* in Morocco would be in any way altered by the King's visit to France.

I am informed by his Excellency that arrangements for a loan to Morocco have been made by Spaniards on the same terms as the loans made by English and French bankers.

No. 249.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 19.)

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 18, 1903.

I SAW the French Minister to-day, who informed me that the French Government have approved the French Military Mission leaving Fez, as desired by the Moorish Government.

He has sent a special courier to Fez to communicate this to them.

I informed him that, as regards Englishmen in Moorish employ, I was perfectly passive; that Kaïd Maclean had requested no instructions from me, and that the Moorish Government had not requested my opinion.

I informed M. Saint Réné Taillandier that as Sir H. Maclean and other Englishmen were in the Sultan's employment, I was of opinion that, unless I were otherwise instructed, the question was one to be arranged directly between them and the Moorish authorities.

No. 250.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 19.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 19, 1903.

I THINK it would be prudent to have a ship or two at Gibraltar, as the condition of the country in this immediate neighbourhood is so very unsettled.

No. 251.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 20, 1903.

IN view of the situation in Morocco, as reported in your telegram No. 88 of the 19th instant, His Majesty's ship "Renown" has been ordered to remain at Gibraltar.

F.O. 415/35
PUBLICLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 252*.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 21, 1903.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the advance of 300,000*l.* to be made to the Moorish Government by the firms of Sir E. Cassel and Messrs. Stern Brothers, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter which his Lordship has received from Sir E. Cassel in regard to the support to be given by His Majesty's Government in the matter of the loan, together with a draft of the letter which Lord Lansdowne proposes to address to him in reply.*

I am to inquire whether the Lords Commissioners concur in the terms of the draft.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T H. SANDERSON.

* Nos. 232 and 256.

No. 252.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 21, 1903.

WITH reference to your telegram to Sir T. Sanderson of the 10th instant.

An Arabic document, purporting to be an order from the Moorish Minister of Finance to pay 112,000*l.* to Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, has been presented to Messrs. Stern Brothers by Coutts' Bank. A translation accompanies the order, and from a letter addressed by you to Messrs. Coutts, it would appear that the translation was made by the interpreter to His Majesty's Legation.

Kaïd Maclean has apparently drawn cheques on Coutts against this money, and much inconvenience would probably arise if they were not honoured, but the form of the order is quite irregular, and it would not be paid in the ordinary course of business.

Do you hold that the order is a genuine document, which will be regarded as constituting a valid acknowledgment on the part of the Moorish Government, in accordance with Moorish ideas and customs?

You should endeavour to arrange with Messrs. Pariente that the Minister of Finance should sign an order in proper form to be substituted for the present one. This would enable me to advise Messrs. Stern to make the required payment.

It appears that there is a second order for 188,000*l.* coming, and it will probably be equally irregular in form.

A prompt answer is urgently required.

No. 253.

Messrs. Stern Brothers to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 22.)

My Lord, 6, *Angel Court, London, April* 21, 1903.

WE have the honour to refer to our communication of the 17th instant, to which we have, so far, received no reply.

We beg to state that what purports to be the second draft of the Morocco Government for 188,000*l.*, referred to in the above letter, has been presented to-day for payment by Messrs. Coutts and Co. Like the document for 112,000*l.*, this document is in Arabic, and bears the following indorsement:—

"Please pay Messrs. Coutts and Co., Harry Maclean, Kaid; Messrs. Coutts and Co."

No translation of the Arabic document was presented, and we have, so far, refused payment (in accord with Sir Ernest Cassel).

In the ordinary course the drafts drawn should have been accompanied by a translation attested by the British Consul; but it may be that, under the special circumstances of the case, His Majesty's Government may desire that the usual formalities be dispensed with, and that the payment be made.

We await an expression of opinion on this point in respect of the above-mentioned sum of 188,000*l.*, as also in respect of the sum of 112,000*l.*, and we again venture to remind your Lordship that we have not yet received from His Majesty's Government the formal letter relating to the advance to Morocco, for which application was made some time ago.

We are, &c.
(Signed) STERN BROTHERS.

No. 254.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 22, 1903.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 28 of the 21st instant.

The orders from the Minister of Finance could be accepted as valid acknowledgment, as they are, in my opinion, genuine documents.

Orders drawn up and signed by the Minister for Finance in proper form, to be substituted for the above, will be obtained by Messrs. Pariente.

It is suggested by Messrs. Pariente, for simplicity's sake, that Messrs. Stern should send out cheque books and then have the cheques, for the amount already drawn, signed by the Minister for Finance. They would also like to have a letter from Messrs. Stern formally appointing them as agents, and also to have the Sultan's letter on Customs returned.

No. 255.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 22, 1903.*

MULEY AMRAMI and all the other Moorish officials who were with him at Melilla have landed here.

The original intention was to land them at Laraiche, and it is a pity that this was not carried out, as his return under existing circumstances to Tangier is unwise.

The situation is slightly relieved for the moment at Tetuan as the Basha has abolished the gate tax at the demand of the tribes.

The Sultan's health has improved.

The Moorish Government, it appears, are disinclined, owing to difficulties of supplies, to send an expedition from Fez. Inaction such as this is regrettable.

(Sent to Madrid.)

No. 256.

Foreign Office to Sir E. Cassel.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 22, 1903.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, inclosing, with other documents, copy of a Contract signed at Fez on the 18th ultimo for a loan of 300,000*l.* to the Moorish Government by your firm and that of Messrs. Stern Brothers; the loan to bear interest at 6 per cent. per annum payable on the first day of each quarter, beginning with the 1st July next, the capital to be repaid in monthly instalments of 6,000*l.*, beginning on the 30th April, 1905, and the payments of interest and capital being specially secured on the Customs, with an order that, in the event of the Customs receipts being insufficient, the deficiency shall be made up from other branches of the Sultan's revenues.

I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state that the loan has the approval of His Majesty's Government, and that, in the special circumstances of the case, they consent to take note of the terms of the Contract as a binding engagement on the part of the Moorish Government.

In the event of the Moorish Government repudiating or disregarding this engagement, His Majesty's Government will be ready to afford support to the lenders in pressing for the fulfilment of the Contract. It would, however, obviously be necessary that His Majesty's Government should be free to decide the shape in which such support could be given.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

No. 257.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Stern Brothers.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, April 22, 1903.*

IN reply to your letters of the 17th and 21st instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that his Lordship has consulted His Majesty's Minister at Tangier on the subject of the two drafts from the Moorish Minister of Finance for 112,000*l.* and 188,000*l.* respectively, which have been presented to you on account

No. 256*.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Stern Brothers.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, April 22, 1903.*

WITH reference to your letters of the 17th and the 21st instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inclose, for your information, a copy of a letter which has been addressed to Sir Ernest Cassel in regard to the advance of 300,000*l.* made to the Moorish Government.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

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* No. 256.

of the loan of 300,000*l.* to the Moorish Government negotiated by your firm and that of Sir E. Cassel.

Sir A. Nicolson is of opinion that these orders are genuine documents, and may be accepted as valid acknowledgments of the payments to be made in pursuance of them. He states further that Messrs. Pariente will obtain orders drawn up and signed in proper form by the Minister of Finance to be substituted for them.

Messrs. Pariente suggest that it might be simpler that you should send out the cheques specially prepared by you, and that cheques for the amounts drawn should be made out on these and signed by the Minister of Finance.

Messrs. Pariente also request that the Sultan's letters addressed to the Administrators of Customs should be returned to them, together with a letter from you formally appointing them to be your agents.

It appears to Lord Lansdowne that, in view of the opinion given by Sir A. Nicolson, the drafts of the Moorish Minister of Finance may, notwithstanding their technical irregularity, be accepted as sufficient warrant for the payment to Messrs. Coutts of the sums drawn for, and that, in the peculiar circumstances of the case, this course is advisable.

A separate communication will be addressed to you on the subject of the formal letter respecting the loan applied for in Sir E. Cassel's letter of the 6th April.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

No. 258.

Sir E. Cassel to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 24.)

My Lord Marquess, 21, *Old Broad Street, London, April* 23, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of the letter of the 22nd instant which your Lordship has directed to be addressed to me on the subject of the advance of 300,000*l.* to the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. CASSEL.

No. 259.

Messrs. Stern Brothers to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 24.)

My Lord Marquess, 6, *Angel Court, London, April* 23, 1903.

WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of a letter, dated the 22nd instant, inclosing copy of a letter which your Lordship has directed to be addressed to the Right Honourable Sir Ernest Cassel in regard to the advance of 300,000*l.* to the Moorish Government.

We have, &c.
(Signed) STERN BROTHERS.

No. 260.

Messrs. Stern Brothers to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 25.)

My Lord Marquess, 6, *Angel Court, London, April* 23, 1903.

WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's letter dated the 22nd instant, and we have, in accordance with the terms thereof, paid the amounts of 112,000*l.* and 188,000*l.* in respect of the advance of 300,000*l.* to the Moorish Government.

We have, &c.
(Signed) STERN BROTHERS.

No. 261.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 25, 1903.*

MUCH anxiety has been caused at Court owing to the evacuation of Oojdah by the Moorish forces, and at length the Moorish Government are taking measures for an active movement against the Pretender's troops.

I hear, confidentially, that a former Governor of Oojdah is to head a force for the recapture of the town while the Sultan leads an advance on Taza itself.

I am afraid that the difficulty of securing adequate supplies for the army may occasion some delay.

I trust that all precautions against a possible reverse may be taken, for a vigorous assertion of the Sultan's authority is necessary.

The situation in the immediate neighbourhood of Tangier, and especially near Tetuan, continues unsettled.

Quiet, however, reigns throughout the south of Morocco.

I understand that, as the Moorish Ministers are of opinion that the dismissal of the European military officers at the present juncture would be unwise, they will continue to remain at Court.

No. 262.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 82.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 14, 1903.*

THE Spanish Minister told me this morning that he had received a telegram from the Governor of Melilla, stating that the rebels had succeeded in capturing the Moorish fort in the immediate proximity of the Spanish lines, which they had been persistently attacking during the last two or three days. A breach was effected in the walls by dynamite, and a general attack was then made, the garrison flying for refuge to the Spanish lines. The Governor reports that some 300 men, besides women and children, and some twenty-five wounded, have taken refuge in Melilla, and he requested the Spanish Minister to move the Moorish authorities to send a vessel to convey these people to Tangier. The Sultan's Deputy said that he must receive a request to that effect from the Sultan's uncle, who is also a refugee in Melilla, before taking any steps in the matter.

From information which I have received, it would appear that the whole of the Riff province has now declared for the Pretender, and it is not improbable that the serious reverse suffered by the uncle of the Sultan will encourage the malcontents throughout the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—I have been informed this morning that a Moorish steamer left at daybreak to fetch away the Moorish refugees at Melilla, and that they will be landed at Laraiche.

A. N.

No. 263.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 84. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 15, 1903.*

THE French Minister informed me yesterday that the Minister of War, El Menebhi, had taken what he considered to be a courageous and sensible step in speaking very frankly to the Sultan on the dangers of his personal situation. El Menebhi had explained to the Sultan that his intimate relations with Europeans were in great measure the causes of the difficulties in which His Majesty at present was placed, and that it was necessary that he should without delay remove from his Court all the Europeans, of whatever category, who

were in His Majesty's service: these officials, El Menebhi suggested, should be requested to depart to the coast, and await there the results of the expedition which the Sultan was contemplating against the Pretender. When the agitation had calmed down, these officials might, perhaps, be allowed to return. With this proposal, the Sultan had expressed his concurrence.

M. Saint-René Taillandier added that, so far as the French Military Mission were concerned, he cordially agreed with the proposal, and had telegraphed to his Government, strongly recommending that no difficulties should be placed in the way of the French officers temporarily abandoning their posts at Fez. He added that he understood from the French Secretary of Legation, who has been at Fez for some time past, and is now in intimate relations with El Menebhi, that Kaïd Maclean had made no objection, and was quite ready to leave the Court with the other British officers.

I told my French colleague that I had received no news on the subject; that it was a subject that required some little consideration, and that at first sight I had doubts whether the measure was a very prudent one at this juncture.

This morning, I received a report from Sir H. Maclean, practically confirming the news which my French colleague had communicated to me. Sir H. Maclean said that he had told the Minister of War that he was ready to obey any orders the Sultan might be pleased to issue, but that he thought that it would be wise for His Majesty to reconsider his decision. He considered the sudden departure of all Europeans would produce exactly the contrary effect to that which was anticipated. The country would either consider that the Government were unable to protect Europeans at the Court, or would imagine that they too were swept away by an anti-European wave, and this concession to the agitators might lead to a rising against Christians throughout Morocco.

Kaïd Maclean informed me that he had spoken in this sense to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Finance, who quite agreed with him; and he was subsequently informed by the Minister for War that the Sultan desired the European officials to remain.

I communicated to my French colleague the substance of Sir H. Maclean's report, and said that the doubts which filled his mind as to the prudence of the step were equally shared by me. I added that I did think it essential that the Sultan should abstain from too great an intimacy with Europeans, and should moderate his love for European pastimes; and I also thought that there were several Europeans at Court whose services might very well be dispensed with. But I doubted the expediency of making a clean sweep, especially of one or two who had been for many years in the service of the present Sultan and of his predecessors, without causing any unfavourable comment.

My French colleague remarked that he might as well be quite frank with me, and explained that the assistance of several "gros bonnets" (he evidently alluded to the Shereefs of Wazzan) to the Sultan in his present precarious situation might be made dependent on the presence or absence of Kaïd Sir H. Maclean. The latter officer was identified in the eyes of the public with all the novelties and follies introduced by the Sultan, and many who might be of great service to His Majesty in his present troubles might wash their hands of him were His Majesty not to give an outward and visible sign of his intention to mend his ways and depart from his present course.

I begged to differ from my French colleague as to the estimation in which Sir H. Maclean was held in the country, and I said that the loyal and lengthy services which he had rendered to successive Sultans were, I was sure, fully appreciated in the country. By the Moors indeed he was regarded as one of themselves, and his removal from the Court, temporarily or otherwise, would I was convinced be misinterpreted. I was as anxious as he was that the Sultan should be exceedingly careful in his mode of life, and should strive to avoid giving any cause of offence to the traditions and prejudices of his subjects. I was not, however, persuaded that the course which the Minister for War had suggested would have the results which were anticipated, and in any case it was a question which should not be hastily decided.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 264.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 86.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April 18, 1903.*

THE past week has been unfortunate for the Sultan's arms, as both his uncles have been obliged to seek refuge in foreign territory, one in Melilla and the other in Algeria; and the frontier town of Oojdah has presumably fallen into the hands of the rebels, as all the local authorities have fled over the boundary. It is reported, though I have no detailed or trustworthy information on the point, that in the Figuig district the tribes have thrown off their allegiance to the Sultan, and have ranged themselves under Bu Amama who is making common cause with the Pretender. The Algerian Emir, Abdelmalek, appears to be working in favour of the Pretender to the south-east of Taza; and round Tetuan the tribes seem to have formed themselves into self-governing communities, without apparently recognizing either the Sultan or the Pretender as their Sovereign. The road between Tangier and Tetuan is again unsafe for travellers, and caravans are unable to proceed.

The British Consular Agent at Alcazar informs me that all the tribes in his vicinity decline to recognize the Sultan's authority, though I have not yet heard that they have made any overt act of rebellion. At Mequinez there has been a collision between the garrison and some Zemmour tribesmen, resulting in loss of life on both sides.

It is possible this incident may have further consequences, as the Government lately committed the grave error of liberally supplying the Zemmours with rifles, in the hope that this mark of confidence would secure their loyalty.

From Arzila, a small closed port about 25 miles from Tangier, urgent appeals arrived some three days ago for assistance, as the mountain tribes in the neighbourhood were threatening to attack and pillage the place.

The authorities here dispatched 100 soldiers to the locality.

Robberies are frequent on the high roads, and it may be said that the country in the northern portion of Morocco is practically in a lawless condition and the authorities unable to enforce order.

From the country south of Laraiche I have received no reports.

In the face of this grave situation the Moorish Government are making preparations for the dispatch of a large force, at the head of which the Sultan will place himself. The intention is to march upon Taza, and then proceed to the Riff; but it is possible that this plan will undergo some modifications, as since its inception the rebellion has made rapid strides and has embraced a far larger portion of the country than formerly.

Great difficulties will be experienced in provisioning a large force and in providing forage for the animals, as there is a scarcity in the country and prices are ruling very high. It is hoped, however, before long to collect and equip a considerable army, and it is expected that the presence of the Sultan himself will have a great moral effect on the rebellious tribes. Results alone can prove whether these hopes and expectations will be realized.

Most unfortunately at this juncture the health of the Sultan is giving some cause for uneasiness; and though I trust his Majesty is only suffering from a passing indisposition, I am anxiously awaiting a medical report as to his condition.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 265.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 92.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 30, 1903.*

A COURIER brought news last night that the town of Arzila, about 25 miles from here, was being attacked by tribes, and grave fears as to its capture are entertained. A few troops have been taken down by a merchant steamer, but it is improbable that they can be disembarked, owing to the state of the sea. There are no British subjects in the town.

In view of the disorder prevalent in the immediate neighbourhood of Tangier, the French and Spanish Ministers and myself visited the Sultan's Deputy this morning to make urgent representations.

Sid Mohammed Torres gave vague assurances, he, however, practically admitted that his resources were insufficient.

I think the presence of a ship of war will be necessary should the situation become more unsettled; but I will telegraph later in regard to this. I would wish, if possible, to avoid calling for a ship of war.

No. 266.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 93.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 1, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 90 of the 25th April last.

I am informed by the French Minister here that no troops are accompanying the officials who are being sent to Oojdah from Fez. These persons will proceed through French territory to the nearest point on the frontier, whence they will negotiate with the tribes for the re-establishment of the Sultan's authority at Oojdah. These officials, being prevented, by the disturbed state of the country, from taking the direct road to Tangier, are now at Laraiche.

M. Saint René-Taillandier tells me that, according to telegraphic communications which he has received from Algeria, the tribes are much agitated all along the frontier as far south as Tafilelt, and that attacks on French posts are likely to occur at any time.

No. 267.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 94.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 1, 1903.*

M. COLOGAN, the Spanish Minister here, has informed me that the Spanish Loan is practically concluded.

Negotiations for another English Loan are, I hear, being opened with Messrs. Forwood.

No. 268.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 95.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 2, 1903.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 92 of the 30th ultimo:

Arzila is no longer attacked, and I trust that the considerable mixed force sent from here yesterday will re-establish order in that district, and free our communications, which have been cut during the last few days, with the interior.

The town of Tetuan seems calmer, and my news from there is better.

In the recent outbreaks of lawlessness I have noticed no anti-foreign feeling. The situation, although less disquieting, still requires watching.

No. 269.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 2, 1903.*

THE Marquess of Lansdowne has been informed by the French Ambassador that the French cruiser "Du Chayla" was sent to convey the Moorish Envoy, who had gone to Algiers to greet President Loubet, from Oran back to Tangier. It had been intended that the vessel should afterwards convey some Moorish troops to certain posts on the coast which they were entitled to occupy under recent Agreement with France. Owing, however, to the rather critical state of affairs, she had been instructed to remain at Tangier for the present. Orders have also been sent to Toulon to hold some other vessels in readiness in case matters grow more serious.

Lord Lansdowne is aware from your letter of the 15th ultimo that His Majesty's ship "Renown" is at present at Gibraltar, but I am directed to state that his Lordship considers it might be well to have one or two other ships available within moderate distance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 270.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 96.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 3, 1903.*

ON the 28th April a force of some 2,500 men strong left Fez with the object of reoccupying Taza.

It is expected that they will accomplish their object successfully. Certain tribes who have deserted the Pretender have joined this force.

No. 271.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 22, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan in regard to the situation at that place.

Latterly there has been much uneasiness in respect to the safety of the town as the adjoining tribes were assuming a threatening attitude and the local authorities had at their disposal but meagre resources of defence. The concession to abolish the gate tax, or octroi, so readily accorded by the Governor, may temporarily relieve the situation, but it may also encourage the tribesmen to formulate further demands. The intention of the Governor to prevent men with arms from entering the town may be difficult to carry into effect and may also be considered as a challenge by the tribesmen.

I have told Mr. Bewicke to let me know without delay should he at any moment consider it prudent for British subjects to leave Tetuan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 271.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 34.)
Sir, *Tetuan, April 21, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 32 and 33 of the 16th and 19th instant, I have the honour to report that the people sent out to speak to the tribes returned yesterday afternoon. I have this morning waited on the Governor and with difficulty extracted a little information from him.

He says he does not know what part the Anghera take, as none of that tribe had remained at the place of meeting.

He says the tribes Wad Ras, Beni Ider, and Beni M'sour have demanded the abolition of the gate tax, and that they be allowed to enter the town with their guns.

He says the gate tax will be taken off, but that he will never grant the permission for them to enter with their guns.

I asked if he had heard the rumour that the tribes had received orders to watch for and prevent him and another from escaping and he said, Yes; he heard they were to watch for him and Abd-el-Krim Lebadi, the Amin, but that there was no necessity to think of escape yet.

On the whole, the Governor was more cheerful than I expected to find him.

The Jews and Spaniards have been much calmer, and yesterday I was told that

many who had at first thought of escaping have given up the idea of going away though some of them have gone to Ceuta. Personally, I do not see any change in the situation, which requires careful watching.

The general opinion is that the tribes will not attack the town, and if things are well managed they may be kept from doing so, but I have no confidence in the Governor's management.

If the tribes begin to make further demands the position may become serious.

There is a rumour to-day that the tribes intend to demand a sum of money from the town, said to be 1,000,000 dollars, but this, of course, must only be loose talk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 272.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 90.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 25, 1903.*

THE Moorish Government, by my last letters from Fez, having received news of the evacuation of Oojdah by Muley Arafa and the Moorish officials, are now alive to the fact that the situation is a serious one, and appear to have decided to take active measures. Before the intelligence of the loss of Oojdah had reached Fez the Moorish Ministers had decided to advise the Sultan to remain at Fez, and to tranquilly await the moment, which they considered must inevitably arrive, when the adherents of the Pretender would melt away from him. They were of opinion that the Pretender would never be able to assemble, far less to feed and equip, a force which could, with any hope of success, take the offensive, and that his followers would soon weary of a leader who was incapable of making any forward movement.

This policy of inaction was based on simple hypothesis, and it was possible that it would be interpreted in the country as evidence of incapacity and weakness, and that it might lead to the extension of the rebellion to districts which had hitherto remained unaffected by it.

The events which have recently occurred at Oojdah, however, altered the views of the Moorish Government, and I am informed, confidentially, that they have now decided to change their tactics and adopt active measures.

The High Chamberlain, who was formerly Governor of Oojdah is, I am told, to be placed at the head of a force which is to proceed to Tangier, and to be conveyed thence by sea to a point on the coast within easy distance of Oojdah. I do not know where the necessary transport will be found to convey a force of any size, and whether the disembarkation would be practicable.

The Sultan is at the same time to lead an expedition against Taza, and I am told that recent negotiations with the tribes in the neighbourhood give every hope that a march on Taza would be effected without serious opposition. There is some difficulty as to the collection of sufficient supplies, and until the Commissariat Department is in good working order, the advance will be delayed.

A prompt and vigorous assertion of the Sultan's authority is to my mind essential. If proper energy and forethought are exercised, the Moorish Government, with their supplies of ammunition, guns, and money, ought to have no great difficulty in re-establishing order in many of the districts. But it cannot be denied that the want of discipline and organization, which have been so marked on previous occacions, raise doubts if matters will be improved in any future undertaking.

South of Laraiche the whole of the country is peaceful and loyal. In this neighbourhood lawlessness still continues, and, indeed, seems to be increasing. The situation at Tetuan is especially disquieting, as the tribes there are becoming more exacting in their demands and more threatening in their attitude.

The British Vice-Consul has been authorized to let me know without delay, should it appear to him advisable to remove the few resident British subjects; and I could have them conveyed to Gibraltar, of which place I understand they are all natives.

The position of affairs generally is disquieting, but by no means desperate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 273.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 91.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 26, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 71 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the French Minister informed me that he had been surprised to hear that his Spanish colleague had quite misunderstood a conversation they had had last month together, and that he had been credited with having stated that a Conference on Morocco would shortly be held at Berlin. M. Saint-Réné Taillandier said that he had mentioned to the Spanish Minister that a Conference might possibly meet at Berlin to discuss many matters connected with wireless telegraphy, and that the question of a station at Cape Spartel might, perhaps, be examined on that occasion. He was at a loss to understand how his words could have been misinterpreted, and a ridiculous statement attributed to him.

I told M. Saint-Réné Taillandier that I had heard at the time of the matter, and had been under the impression that a confusion had been made.

The question has no doubt passed out of recollection, but I think it right to officially report the explanation of the French Minister.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 274.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 26, 1903.*

THE French Minister has informed me that, at the request of the Moorish Frontier Commissioner, facilities would be afforded for the passage through Algerian territory of the Moorish garrison which was destined for Figuig.

This garrison, composed of 300 men, has been waiting at Laraiche for over a year, and I understood from M. Saint-Réné Taillandier that a French officer would arrive here to conduct the troops to their destination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 275.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 30. Confidential.)
My Lord Marquess, *Madrid, April 26, 1903.*

THE state of affairs in Morocco is being watched here with anxiety, and the success of the Pretender among the Riff tribes has caused some alarm in the Spanish possessions, notably at Melilla, where the Moorish Custom-house has been closed. This step has, I believe, been taken in deference to an intimation on the part of the Pretender that if the Spaniards allowed the Sultan's officials to continue levying import duties, the supplies of the Settlement would be cut off. The Spaniards were in a difficult position, and they were probably justified in closing the custom-house, but I suppose their action will have a damaging effect on the prestige of the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

No. 276.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 4, 1903.

Mr. Lonsdale,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state what is the present condition of affairs in Morocco; and whether British residents at Tetuan have been warned to leave the place.

Answer.

The northern part of Morocco is in a condition of rather serious disturbance. According to recent information, the tribes in the north and east are in a state of ferment. The country around Tangier is reported to be unsettled, and the road from that town to Tetuan to be unsafe. More recent reports are, however, less disquieting.

We have not heard, so far, that British residents have been warned to leave Tetuan, nor does there appear to be any danger to Europeans residing at other ports.

No. 277.

Sir H. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, May 5, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, with reference to your telegram No. 34 of the 1st instant, that I am told by the Foreign Minister that the situation in Morocco does not appear to him very serious. He thinks the Riff tribes desire to be rid of Roghi, who is not getting on well with them, and considers the highest point of the rebellion has been reached. The change of attitude on the part of the French, which he thinks is due to plain speaking by England and Spain, and their advocacy of the *status quo*, please him much.

No. 278.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 6, 1903.*

ACCORDING to information I have received, a large force, under the command of the Minister of War, and which I understand will be supplementary to the advance expedition, will proceed to re-establish the Sultan's authority at Oojdah and Taza.

Whether the Sultan will also proceed is uncertain, but it would have a good effect if he were to do so.

His Majesty wishes, and the Minister for War is willing, that the European officers should accompany the expedition.

No. 279.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received May 7.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, May 6, 1903.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 2nd instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram, dated to-day, from the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, relative to affairs in Morocco.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 279.

Admiral Sir C. Domvile to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Malta, May* 6, 1903.

YOUR No. 134. "Repulse" will leave for Gibraltar afternoon 6th instant, and "Vindictive" will follow when ready.

No. 280.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 7.)

(No. 98.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 7, 1903.

THE condition of affairs in the immediate neighbourhood is still very unsettled. The authorities limited themselves to relieving Arzila, where, I am informed, the Government troops are now themselves pillaging and causing alarm. Brigandage is again as active as ever after a momentary calm, and the provisioning of Tangier is becoming a difficult question.

The local authorities have urged the Moorish Government to send a force here, as they confess their inability to restore order. It is doubtful whether the Moorish Government has a force to spare. Last night placards were posted in Tangier of an anti-Christian character, but, although it is symptomatic, too much importance need not be attached to this occurrence.

No. 281.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 93.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 1, 1903.

DURING the last two days the small town of Arzila, about 25 miles from Tangier, has been exposed to vigorous attacks from the neighbouring tribes under the leadership of a noted highwayman named Reisouli. Both provisions and ammunition are scanty in Arzila, and on the night of the 29th ultimo a small boat arrived here from that town with an urgent appeal for assistance. An English steamer was chartered by the Hebrew community of Tangier to bring off their coreligionists in Arzila, and on her were embarked 100 soldiers. She left a daybreak yesterday, and was followed later by the Moorish steamer "El Turki" with some ammunition; but both steamers returned last night having been unable, owing to the heavy surf, to communicate with the shore. When they left Arzila yesterday afternoon the town was still holding out.

Two days previously to the dispatch of the steamer, on urgent representations from several of the Diplomatic Representatives, a detachment of troops was sent overland to reinforce the small garrison at Arzila, but when about four hours' march from Tangier they were warned that a large body of tribesmen would oppose their passage, and they consequently retired to this town.

The critical condition of Arzila, the troubles round Tetuan, as well as the active brigandage which is proceeding unchecked within a few miles of Tangier, rendering the entry of supplies and produce a matter of danger and difficulty, moved the French and Spanish Ministers and myself to make serious representations to Hadj Mohammed Torres, the Sultan's Deputy.

We pointed out to his Excellency that heads of cattle were carried off with perfect impunity almost at the outskirts of the town, that garrison troops were unable to proceed further than a very few hours from Tangier, that the roads to Tetuan were blocked, and that a small town within 30 miles of Tangier could be attacked and no assistance rendered to it, and that, in short, insecurity and lawlessness were spreading. We inquired of his Excellency what measures he intended and was in a position to take to re-establish order, and to keep the communications open and free.

Hadj Mohammed Torres did not deny the facts which we had brought to his notice, but stated that the Government were preoccupied in other directions, and had been unable to turn their attention to these parts. He added that he would personally

guarantee the safety of Europeans in Tangier, and gave some vague assurances as to being in a position to shortly re-establish tranquillity in the neighbourhood.

Our representations, as I expected, led to no practical results; and both the guarantees and assurances of the Sultan's Deputy are mere empty phrases, as the few troops of the Tangier garrison are incompetent and quite untrustworthy.

A certain alarm is being manifested among some classes of Europeans here, and unfortunately the natives are becoming aware of this uneasiness. The situation will require watching, and should I discern any dangerous symptoms I would invite the man-of-war stationed at Gibraltar to come to Tangier. There would not be the slightest difficulty in affording all necessary protection to Europeans, or indeed in repressing any hostile acts from the natives, who would easily succumb to any assertion of authority. The present lawlessness and licence are due solely to the inaction and weakness of the local authorities and to the inadequacy and incompetence of the forces at their disposal. I may add that my French colleague is in entire accord with me, and if necessary, would call for the French man-of-war at present in readiness at Oran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 282.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 94.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 1, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 90 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the French Minister informed me that the officials who were being sent by the Moorish Government to Oojdah were not accompanied by any troops. Their mission was a peaceful one. They would go by sea to Algeria, and then establish themselves close to the frontier, probably at Lalla Marnia, whence they would study the situation, and ascertain the best methods of re-establishing the Sultan's authority at Oojdah. The French authorities would make no objection to this programme.

M. Saint René Taillandier explained to me that Mulay Arafa and the Governor quitted Oojdah a little prematurely, and that there was, in reality, no necessity for so hasty a departure.

The forces of the Pretender had not, according to his latest information, occupied the town.

I may mention that the officials who are on their way from Fez were unable to take the direct road to Tangier, owing to the disturbed state of the country in this neighbourhood, but turned off to Laraiche.

M. Saint René Taillandier added that he had just received a telegram from the Algerian Government reporting on the position of affairs on the frontier. The news, he said, were not satisfactory; the tribes all along the frontier so far south as Tafilelt were much agitated, and it was expected that the French posts might be attacked. The Moorish Governor of Figuig was much alarmed, and it was not improbable that he would follow the example of his colleague at Oojdah, and seek refuge on French soil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 283.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 95.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 3, 1903.

THE activity of the turbulent elements in this neighbourhood increased considerably during the past few days, and communication between Tangier and the interior were for some time completely interrupted. Not only did no cattle or country produce find their way into the town, but the postal couriers to Fez were unable to proceed, and two who were coming from the capital were stopped, and their postal bags taken from them. This condition of things produced a certain alarm among the townspeople, both European and Jewish.

A mixed force of some 600 men was dispatched by the local authorities to relieve Arzila, and also to clear the country of the marauders. So far as Arzila was concerned, this town appeared to have entered into negotiations with its besiegers, and to have secured the abandonment of the attack by the payment of a ransom. The advance of a force superior in numbers to the rebels appears to have frightened the latter, and, according to my information, they have scattered, and their leader taken refuge in a sanctuary.

The roads will, I trust, be now reopened, and confidence restored.

At the same time, recent incidents have demonstrated the ease with which disorder can attain dangerous proportions, and, though the immediate pressure on Tangier has been removed, there is no security that lawlessness will not again break out. I am told that the local authorities have applied to the Government to dispatch without delay a force of 3,000 or 4,000 men to this neighbourhood, but I have doubts if this number can be spared from Fez.

During these past few days I have not gathered that any anti-European feeling was manifested. Plunder and pillage appear to have been the chief objects of those in revolt against the authorities. In prosecution of these objects great discrimination would probably not be exercised, and raids on the property and goods of Europeans might very possibly be made.

My French colleague and myself have considered the possibility of the necessity arising of calling for the protection of ships of war, but this is a step to which we think we should not be justified in asking the sanction of our Governments except there was imminent and undoubted danger to the lives and property of Europeans.

The presence of ships of war at the present juncture would be a serious step. I have no doubt that they could, without difficulty, afford all necessary protection to Europeans in Tangier; but the news of their arrival would rapidly spread throughout the country, and the fact that any form of European intervention had taken place might cause a general rising against Europeans in places where protection could with difficulty be afforded, and might even render the position of the Sultan still more difficult than it is at present. These are considerations which should not be lost sight of in dealing with a local situation which I do not deny is inconvenient and in a certain measure disquieting. I think I am right in stating that my French colleague quite shares my views.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 284.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 9.)

No. 96.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 2, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch, with its inclosures, which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez regarding certain alleged movements and intentions of the Pretender. The news furnished by the informant of Mr. Macleod does not appear to be very trustworthy.

The information given by Mr. Macleod as to the attitude of certain of the Ghiata tribe is, however, of interest; and if the Moorish Government are able to smooth the way towards the reoccupation of Taza, a great step will have been made towards improving the situation.

I may mention that the British Consular Agent at Alkazar informs me that an emissary from the Pretender recently arrived in the neighbourhood and read a letter to the tribes stating that the Riff and the country round Oojdah had submitted to him, and that he would shortly visit Alkazar. The emissary then left for Laraiche, and Mr. Carleton understood that the man intended to visit the coast towns with letters from the Pretender calling upon the tribes in the south to espouse his cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received a further communication from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting the departure from the capital of a force of 2,500 men, on the 28th ultimo, to occupy Taza, copy of which I have the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information.

A. N.

Tangier, May 3, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. 284.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 48.)
Sir, *Fez, April 27, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith note of a statement made to me yesterday by a Shereef who came in from Kasbah-el-Msun, Tsul, and Hiayna a few days ago. It will be observed that he affirms hearing certain orders promulgated in Hiayna for the provisioning and accommodation of three columns which the Pretender, according to the narrator, intends to send against Fez.

I give this statement of his, however, with all reserve, as this Shereef appears to me an ignorant, unintelligent man and highly credulous in regard to the reported magical powers of the Pretender.

On the 23rd instant, about 170 Ghiata tribesmen came in to Fez under the protection, mostly, of the Shereef Sidi Mohamed-el-Wazzani. They are composed of a sect of the Beni Mtir and Ahl Tahir, and on the 26th instant a deputation of them had an audience of the Sultan, when they assured His Majesty that (1) if given two regiments of infantry and (2) supplied with arms and money, they would engage to take Taza for the Sultan, and reinstate His Majesty's officials there.

The Sultan accepted this offer, and I learn from Colonel Ferrara (Chief of the Sultan's arsenal) that he has issued 200 rifles for those men and 200 for a contingent of of the Beni Warain, who are also here.

The latter are negotiating with the Court to co-operate in the foregoing plan.

This having been done, the Sultan himself, with the main body of his army, might then proceed to Taza.

Neither of those deputations have, however, given hostages for the carrying out of their promises.

The Ahl Tahir sect of the Ghiata were, it will be remembered, the Pretender's first supporters. He married the daughter of one of their leading men and led them to believe that they would be Chiefs in the Government he proposed to set up. Latterly, however, he has made two similar connections, having married a Tsul woman and a Shinhaja woman, and appears to take little or no account of the Ahl Tahir.

They have consequently been offended, and have concluded to make terms with the Court. I have learned this privately as well as from statements from the Court. Abundant rains have at last fallen, to the great relief of the district. There had been almost no rain since the middle of December, and a failure of crops and pastures appeared imminent, until the present rains began.

I inclose a photo-map* to illustrate Inclosure No. 1, and to show the Pretender's sphere of influence subsequent to recent events at Melilla and Oojdah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 284.

Statement of Shereef Mohammed-ben-Abdullah-ed-Drisi, of Hiayna and Rai Warga.

I WAS at Kasbah-al-Msun about ten days ago, and, according to common report there, the Pretender was then at Beni Touzain and was expected to remain there for some time.

On passing westwards through Hiayna, I heard that the Pretender had written to Kaïd Abd-ar-Rahman ben Abd-as-Salam el Jafiri, his chief agent in East Hiayna district, to collect the following levies of barley, *i.e.*:—

Twenty-five large safas (about 6,000–7,000 horse-feeds) from Shinhaja Sagheem.
Twenty-five large safas from Tsul.
Twenty-five large safas from Branes.
Twenty-five large safas from Ghiataulid Finasa, Ras Warga district.

These were to victual three columns the Pretender intended to send against Fez bye-and-bye.

The first column, under the command of the Pretender himself, would be composed of Beni Touzin and mountain tribes westward to Beni Zeruah, and would assemble near Ain Mediuna and march through North-West Hiayna towards Fez. The second

* Not printed.

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column was to consist of contingents from Branes, Tsul, Shinhaja and North-East Hiayna, and would march through North-East Hiayna. The third column was to be formed by Huara (east of Taza) Arabs, Ghiata, and South-East Hiayna people, and would march through Ahl Tahir (Ghiata), South Hiayna, and Ulad-el-Hadj. The Sheikhs of the respective districts were to arrange for villagers along these routes to vacate their khaimas temporarily, so that there might be sleeping accommodation night by night for men who had no tents. As regards tents, the Pretender has still some 400 of various sorts of those captured from Amrani's camp in December last, and is expected to get 400 or so more from the Government stores at Oojdah.

At Tuts-er-Rimmel, in Beni Zeruah, there is a camp of the Pretender's under the command of a Shereef named Ab-al-Habib Es-Seyedi, whose duty is only to watch the frontier of that district on the Fez side.

Fez, April 26, 1903.

Inclosure 3 in No. 284.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 49.)

Sir, *Fez, April* 29, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in pursuance of the agreement made between the Sultan and the contingents of Ghiata and Beni Warain tribesmen, referred to in my despatch No. 48 of the 27th instant, a force of some 1,200 infantry and 250 Chirarda mounted tribesmen, all under Kaïd Benajim, marched early yesterday afternoon towards Taza and encamped at Mshta-ben-al-Hiwari, about 8 miles east-south-east of Fez.

Later in the afternoon the Ghiata and the Beni Warain tribesmen assembled at Bab Eftuh (the east gate of Fez), and were supplied by the Court with rifles and ammunition. They then left to join the troops at Mshta ben-al-Hiwari.

The troops were accompanied by a baggage train with supplies of food, estimated to be enough to support them without having recourse to villages on the line of march.

The plan of operations is, I am informed privately, for the force supported by West Ghiata, Beni Warain, and Aits Tsaroshen tribesmen to follow the most south Fez–Taza road to seize Taza, install a garrison, and establish officials of the Sultan to govern the town.

When this is done, another body of troops, 3,000–4,000 strong, will march against East Hiayna, Lower Shinhaja, Tsul, Branes, and Miknessa to Taza by the most north Fez–Taza road.

A force of some 500 infantry, with further food supplies, is stated to be leaving here this afternoon to follow the troops dispatched yesterday and act as a reserve.

I inclose a photo-map indicating these routes and the plan of operations.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 285.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 99.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 9, 1903.

THIS morning a telegram was received by Hadj Mohammed Torres from the Basha of Tetuan, viâ Ceuta, requesting the immediate dispatch of troops and stores, as he needed them urgently.

The Pasha added that a hot action had been fought that day with the tribes, but the result was not stated; to judge from the telegram, it was probably unfavourable to the Government forces.

I instructed the British Vice-Consul, Mr. Bewicke, some time ago, if he considered it advisable, to warn all British subjects to leave Tetuan, and I understand that most of them have acted on this advice and left the town.

I also instructed Mr. Bewicke to inform me at once if he himself desired to leave, but as yet he has not done so.

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* Not printed.

No. 286.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 100.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 9, 1903.

I AM informed by M. de Cologan that the Moorish Government have requested that a mission composed of three Moorish officials might be allowed to go to Melilla, in order to endeavour to win over by negotiation the tribes in the neighbourhood to the Sultan.

The Pretender, he also stated, has cut off supplies to Alhucenas; he thinks, possibly, that this is owing to the refusal of the Spanish authorities to allow him to establish his customs officers at Melilla in lieu of the Sultan's, whom the Spaniards have recently sent back to their own country.

Sir M. Durand informed.

No. 287.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 101.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 9, 1903.

I HAVE asked Admiral at Gibraltar to get a ship ready to take away Vice-Consul and British subjects from Tetuan, having heard that the Angera tribes are on their way to join those who are attacking that place.

I have told the Admiral at Gibraltar not to send a ship of war till I telegraph again.

I am sending Assistant Interpreter to Gibraltar to go with the ship, in case she is sent to Tetuan, as he knows that locality well.

No. 288.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 102.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 10, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 101 of the 9th instant.

I have telegraphed to the Admiral at Gibraltar to request him to send a ship of war to Tetuan to fetch away British subjects and the Vice-Consul.

According to information from Ceuta, the action fought on the 8th instant resulted in favour of the Government forces, but the situation will be very serious if it be true that other tribes are on their way to assist insurgents round Tetuan. I think, then, in regard to Vice-Consul and others, that it would be wiser not to delay till perhaps it was too late.

No. 289.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 103.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 10, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 100 of the 9th instant.

I am informed by M. de Cologan that the Moorish Government have also requested that, for the use of those tribes who may be won over to the Sultan, arms and ammunition should be permitted to enter Melilla.

The Spanish Minister believes that this would lead to difficulties with the rebels, and therefore he is opposed to this request being granted; he is of opinion that his Government will be equally so.

The Moorish Mission propose to leave Tangier on the 13th instant.

Sent to His Majesty's Representative at Madrid.

No. 290.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 11, 1903.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 102 of the 10th instant:

No fighting at Tetuan since Friday. Mr. Bewicke, the British Vice-Consul there, has been embarked and has arrived at Gibraltar.

No 291.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received May 12.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, May 11, 1903.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated to-day, from the Senior Naval Officer at Gibraltar.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 291.

Senior Naval Officer, Gibraltar, to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Gibraltar, May 11, 1903.*

"RENOWN" arrived. State of affairs at Tetuan more quiet.

No. 292.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 12, 1903.*

TETUAN was being vigorously attacked all yesterday afternoon.

A telegram was received last night from the Governor of Ceuta to the effect that fighting continued up to 7 P.M.

No news has been received since then.

The Sultan's uncle, Muley Arafa, fled on board the Moorish steamer, and arrived here this morning.

Reinforcements are being sent to-day from Tangier by sea by the authorities; but it is not certain whether they will be able to reach Tetuan.

Mr. Bewicke, I understand, took all British subjects away with him in His Majesty's ship "Renown."

I shall see him in the afternoon to-day.

Sir M. Durand informed.

No. 293.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 12, 1903.*

I AM informed by the French Minister that he hears that fighting still continues round Tetuan.

A French merchant-steamer which called this morning at El Martin, the seaport of Tetuan, was not able to communicate with the town.

The situation here would be critical should Tetuan fall, as the tribes might make an attempt here when elated with success.

I should be glad of your permission to call for ships without further reference, as I think they should come here in case of capture of Tetuan.

Three British subjects who declined to leave Tetuan were left behind by Vice-Consul, who has arrived here.

No. 294.

Intelligence Division to Foreign Office.—(Received May 13.)

THE Director-General of Mobilization and Military Intelligence presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to forward an extract from a letter recently received by an officer of this Department from Captain Neill Malcolm, D.S.O., Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who has just visited the country in the vicinity of Figuig.

Winchester House, St. James's Square, S.W., May 12, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 294.

Captain Malcolm to Intelligence Division.

(Extract.) *Cartagena, May 5, 1903.*

I GOT here this morning from Oran, having had quite a pleasant time in Algeria, although it has been rather cold.

I went as far as Duveyrier on the railway, that is, almost 28 kilometres short of Figuig. It is as far as the railway is open for commercial purposes, though trains run to Beni Yunuf, 5 kilometres short of Figuig, for military and construction purposes.

The French propose to enter Figuig almost immediately, I think. They are concentrating now at Ain Sefra and Duveyrier. I rather fancy that the review was held at El Kreider to enable them to concentrate quietly, without attracting attention, but that is only an idea of my own.

I don't think they'll meet any serious opposition. Their most southerly troops, as far as I know, are at Beni Abbes, south of Igli, where they have some Tirailleurs (Turcos). I fancy the force there will be some two companies or so. They have some trouble with the Moroccans, who occasionally loot convoys, &c.

Sniping goes on at Duveyrier every night, but nothing serious, although a sentry was killed yesterday week.

There are some troops (Turcos) in Tuat, but I suppose you know all about them. I do not know how much further they have gone on that line.

I have got most of the information you want, I think, but will send it later. You probably know all I have told you already, but I thought it wouldn't do any harm to drop a line, especially about the occupation of Figuig.

* * * * * * *

They talk of making hotels there, and turning it into a sort of winter resort for tourists.

To-night I leave for Madrid, and go home at the end of May.

No. 295.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 40. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, May 13, 1903.*

THIS morning the Foreign Minister requested me to call upon him, and told me that information had reached him to the effect that a British man-of-war had proceeded to Tetuan, in connection with the disorders on the Morocco coast, and that three cruisers were being dispatched to Gibraltar from England. The Spanish

Government had, he said, also ordered a cruiser to proceed to Tetuan for the protection of the Spaniards there.

Going on to discuss the Morocco situation in general, he said that as the Pretender was losing ground, and the disturbances were purely of a local character, he considered it satisfactory, particularly in view of the fact that all schemes of intervention had been abandoned by the French, who had now accepted English and Spanish views in the matter of the maintenance of the *status quo*.

When the Conservatives came into power in Spain the Spaniards had, he told me, nearly committed themselves to joint action with the French; but he had refused to complete the arrangement, and had thereby incurred much odium. He said the Spanish Ambassador in Paris was "too French," and blamed him for this.

He told me that he intended to make a declaration at the opening of the Cortes to the effect that Spain, far from being, as the opposition press never ceased to insist, isolated from England and France, had been in perfect agreement with both of them, as they were both in favour of the *status quo*, but he did not think it desirable to say anything about the recent conversion of French to this view.

He is clearly much pleased with the result, which he considers has been brought about by the firm resistance which he offered to the pressure exerted by M. Delcassé, who now admits that he has reconsidered his opinion in consequence.

No. 296.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 13, 1903.

THE Admiralty have instructed the Admiral Superintendent at Gibraltar to comply with any requisition you may send him for ships to proceed at once to Tangier.

No. 297.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 210.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 13, 1903.

THE French Ambassador told me to-day that he considered that the situation in Morocco had been seriously aggravated by the events of the last few days. A French convoy carrying provisions had been attacked and a considerable number of men had lost their lives. The attacking party belonged to a tribe which had made its submission to the French authorities at the time when the tribes on the Algerian frontier had been divided. A fraction of this particular tribe had, however, refused to come under the arrangement, and it was this fraction which had been guilty of the outrage to which his Excellency referred. It was absolutely necessary that they should be chastised and a punitive expedition would be sent against them which would, probably, destroy their villages and crops. His Excellency desired, however, to explain to me in good time that these punitive operations had no ulterior significance. He thought it would be useful for me to know this, as his Majesty's Government might he questioned upon the subject.

I thanked his Excellency for his consideration in placing me in possession of the intentions of the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 298.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 13, 1903.

WITH reference to the accompanying telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier,* copy of which has already been sent to you, I am directed by the Marquess

* No. 293.

of Lansdowne to state that he will be glad if arrangements can be at once made for some ships to be held in readiness at Gibraltar, in case Sir A. Nicolson should consider the situation at Tangier such as to necessitate their presence at that port without further reference to His Majesty's Government.

On receipt of your reply a telegram will be dispatched to Sir A. Nicolson.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

No. 299.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 233.)
My Lord, *Paris,* May 12, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Report by Colonel Stuart-Wortley, Military Attaché to this Embassy, concerning a rumoured arrangement made between France and Morocco for the French occupation of Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 299.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wortley to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 28.)
Sir, *Paris, May* 12, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, that in a letter I received yesterday from His Majesty's Consul-General at Algiers, he stated that he had heard privately, but from a trustworthy source, that French troops are about to occupy Figuig, and that the consent of the Sultan of Morocco has been given to this arrangement through the Moorish Embassy which went to Algiers to salute the President of the French Republic. It is also stated that a certain sum of money was either paid or promised to the Moorish Government in view of this arrangement.

Although this information must be considered with reserve, it would appear probable that, in the face of recent events on the extreme south-western frontier of Algeria and Morocco, an occupation of Figuig by French troops will take place at an early date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. STUART-WORTLEY,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.

No. 300.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 14, 1903.

THE tribes have attacked Tetuan, but though much damage has been done in the surroundings they have been successfully repulsed.

The tribes have ceased hostilities for the moment and appear somewhat disheartened.

They are anxious to collect other tribes to join in a fresh attack in two or three days.

The Spanish Government have sent a cruiser to fetch away their subjects and Consul from the town.

I have heard a report, which so far I have been unable to verify, that some trouble has occurred near Fez, and that the troops which were on their way to re-establish order here have been recalled by the Government.

(Repeated to His Majesty's Representative at Madrid.)

No. 301.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, May 15, 1903.*

I AGAIN yesterday night had a conversation with Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of Morocco, and found his mood had changed curiously from what it had been the day before. He asked whether we had any apprehensions of an advance on the part of the French on the south-eastern frontier, and said he had received disquieting news as to their attitude there. He then asked me if I was quite certain that no change of view on our part as to the *status quo* was signified by the visit of the King to Paris. I reassured him on this point to the best of my ability.

The King's visiting Portugal, Italy, and France, and not visiting Spain, is a subject out of which the opposition press has been making capital, the isolation of Spain being much discussed, while suggestions have been made that some fresh arrangement, having in view the settlement of the question of Morocco without consulting Spain, is on foot.

The Foreign Minister appeared happier at the end of our interview, but he urged me to find out whether any apprehension were entertained in London as to the designs of France on South-eastern Morocco. The information that had reached him, consisting of reports from Moorish sources that the frontier was being threatened by the French, seemed of a very vague kind.

Please instruct me as to what language I should use in treating of this matter.

No. 302.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May 15, 1903.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 41 of to-day's date, you may assure the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs that we should not enter upon any fresh arrangement as to Morocco without the knowledge of the Spanish Government, and that there has been no change in our policy in regard to that country.

I was informed by the French Ambassador two days ago that one of the tribes near the Moorish frontier, which had submitted to the French authorities at the time of the frontier settlement, had recently attacked a French convoy in Algeria. Considerable loss of life had occurred, and a punitive expedition would have to be sent against the tribe whereby their villages and crops would probably be destroyed. No ulterior significance was, however, to be attached to these operations.

Rumours have also reached His Majesty's Government as to an intended French advance on Figuig, and, I presume, above decision accounts for them. It seems to me that we must accept, as offered in good faith, the explanation of the French Ambassador.

No. 303.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received May 16.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, May 16, 1903.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram dated the 15th May, from the Senior Naval Officer, Gibraltar.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 303.

Senior Naval Officer, Gibraltar, to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Gibraltar, May 15, 1903.*

INSURGENTS attack on Tetuan failed, but it is reported that fresh one is to be made.

No. 304.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 108.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 16, 1903.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 100 to your Lordship of the 9th instant, I have the honour to] report that I have been informed by Señor de Cologan, the Spanish Minister here, that the Pretender has threatened that, so long as the Moorish Mission remains at Melilla, he will cut off communications between the interior and that place.

There has been no further continuance of hostilities at Tetuan, and it seems as though the tribes were hesitating as to renewing the fighting.

A meeting to deliberate is being held by them to-day.

The land route between Tangier and Tetuan remains blocked, but the road from the latter place to the sea is open.

The Spanish colony still remains at Tetuan.

No. 305.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 100.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 8, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan, reporting a conversation which he had held with Muley Arafa, the Sultan's uncle, who recently fled from Oojdah.

It is now stated that this personage has been summoned by the Sultan to Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 305.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 40.)
Sir, *Tetuan, May 6, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I waited on Muley Arafa this morning by appointment.

Muley Arafa appears unwell, old, and feeble. He informs me that he is to stay here for the present, and that the Government is sending forces here.

I inquired about Oojdah, and he said that the Government had fled, and that business was carried on by the people of the place, who are chiefly loyal to the Sultan—only a few having gone over to the Pretender.

I asked about the neighbouring tribes, and he said they are uncertain and wavering, but if the Sultan sent a force there, fear would make them join it.

I inquired if the report was true that Sid Hamed Erquina and others were going to Oojdah; he appeared not to know, but implied that it was useless any one going there at present, either with or without a force.

When, however, I mentioned the force sent to Taza, he brightened up and said, "If the Sultan's forces take Taza, all the Riff would join them."

Muley Arafa was very pleasant, and talked freely, but the impression I brought away with me was that I had gained nothing by my interview, and that his conversation was simply meant for civility, and did not convey his real feelings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 306.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 101.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 9, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 92 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the French Minister informed me that he had been surprised to learn that the troops who were to garrison Figuig, and who had been waiting at Laraiche, had been sent to Alcazar to maintain order there. He said that the French officer who was to escort these troops through Algerian territory to their destination had arrived here, and after so ready a response had been given to the urgent appeals of the Moorish Government, it was a little vexing to find that the trouble taken by the French authorities was in vain. He had, he said, written to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject.

M. Saint-René Taillandier added that the presence of a garrison at Figuig was urgently necessary, as, from his information, it appeared probable that unless speedy reinforcements were sent to the Governor of that locality, he would have to take refuge in Algerian territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 307.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 102.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 8, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, giving a rough estimate of the forces which the Sultan has at present at his disposal. Your Lordship will observe that at Fez and its neighbourhood, His Majesty has, in reality, not more than 9,000 men, as the garrison at Mequinez and those with Kaid Omar Yusi can hardly be counted upon as available. Some deduction would presumably have to be made for unfit men, and a garrison would have to be left at Fez when an onward movement is made. It would not, therefore, be safe to reckon on more than 7,000 men, and these would not be more than sufficient for an advance on Taza. In fact, this number appears to me to be dangerously few. If Mr. Macleod's statistics are correct, I do not see how any force could be dispatched to this neighbourhood for the re-establishment of order without unduly weakening the expeditionary columns which are to operate against the Pretender.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 307.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 51.)
Sir, *Fez, May* 4, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a rough estimate of the Sultan's forces encamped at Fez or stationed in this district. It will be observed that, with the exception of some 250 men from Zarhon and the Chirada who went towards Taza on the 28th instant, all the tribal contingents present are from South Morocco.

From 5,000 to 10,000, half mounted and half on foot, should be available from the western and central provinces after the harvest or most of it has been reaped, say about the beginning of June, which this year coincides with the Muslim festival called the Mulud.

So if the operations in the Taza district have in the meanwhile proved successful, the Sultan should by the middle of June be able to lead a force of 15,000 to 20,000 men through the northern provinces. After the harvest the feeding of such a force will be less difficult, as there will be the new crop of wheat, barley, straw, and grass to draw upon.

Meanwhile, in regard to food for the ensuing expedition to Taza, the Government, I understand, intends to send stores of wheat and barley to be deposited on various points on the roads as soon as the result of the operations of the first column is known. But so far as I have yet been able to learn, the commissariat arrangements will be merely on the same line as before, *i.e.*, the camp to be followed by an itinerant market which will supply itself, and over the collection and distribution of whose stocks no control will be exercised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 307.

Rough Estimate of Sultan's Forces at or near Fez on May 1, 1903.

1. Main Camp S'boo Bridge—

	Men.
Sultan's bodyguard	750
Dukalla and Shawia	900
Haha and Shiadma	1,000
Howara and Gaudafa	600
Zrahana (Zarhon)	300
Rahamna	1,000
Harrala Regiment and Artillery	1,250
Total	5,750

2. Camp at Bab Eftuk—

Abda and Serngua	400

3. Camp under South Bastion—

Mtoga	400

4. Camp at Dahar Maharaz—

Fadla	600

5. Camp at Wad Fez—

Zemmour	100

6. Dris Bennani (Kaïd Erha)—

Bab Segira	100
Total	1,600
Infantry at Mequinez	500
Infantry with Kaïd Omar-el-Yuri beyond Lefoo	500
Infantry and Chirarda dispatched towards Taza	1,450
Total	2,450

Total.

Main Camp	5,750
Near Fez	1,600
Mequinez	500
With Kaïd Omar-el-Yuri	500
Column for Taza	1,450
Grand total	9,800

N.B.—Of these about one-third are cavalry, the rest irregular and regular infantry, and the artillery instructed by the French military mission and the British instructors.

No. 308.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 103.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May 10, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan, reporting renewed troubles near that town.

Yesterday morning a telegram was received by the Sultan's Deputy here from the Governor of Tetuan, which had been dispatched during the previous night through Ceuta.

The Spanish Minister was good enough to show me a copy of the telegram, which was in the following terms, "Send me immediately troops and cartridges. A great battle took place to-day. Am in want of soldiers and ammunition." This telegram was evidently sent after the termination of the day's hostilities, and is not of a very reassuring character.

Hadj Mahommed Torres was anxious to meet the request of the Governor of Tetuan to the best of his ability; but the troops whom he wished to send declined to go owing to some question of arrears of pay, and took refuge in a house of the Shereef of Wazzan. The Moorish steamer "The Turki" left this morning with some provisions and cartridges, but no men.

Last evening Mr. Harris informed the Legation that he had been told that a considerable portion of the Anghera tribes had decided to join the insurgents, and were proceeding to Tetuan to-day. Mr. Harris merely transmitted the information which reached him, and which he was unable to verify. Still, it is probable that those Anghera tribesmen near Tetuan will take part in the hostilities, and their participation would seriously aggravate the situation.

The Spanish Minister informed me this morning early that he had received a telegram from the Governor of Ceuta late last night, saying that the action on the 8th was not of a very serious character; that the Beni Ider, Beni Houzmar, and Wad Ras had been the assailants; and that the Government troops had been enabled to repulse their attack and to burn two villages with slight loss. The Governor added that so long as the insurrection was limited to the above tribes he did not think that Tetuan itself would be in danger; but he added that some Anghera tribes near had also probably taken part in the action, as one or two of the Government soldiers had been wounded by Mauser bullets, and that the Anghera alone possessed Mauser rifles.

I had telegraphed last evening to the Admiral at Gibraltar to have steam ready in the "Renown," and I asked him to send over a torpedo-boat to Tangier this morning to fetch Mr. Bristow, the Assistant Interpreter, so that in case it was considered necessary to send the "Renown" Mr. Bristow could travel in her, as he knows Tetuan well and is conversant with the language.

This morning, in view of the fact that hostilities had broken out at Tetuan; that the Governor was in need of reinforcements, and that practically none could be sent; that there was a possibility of Anghera tribes joining in the fray and of Tetuan being completely surrounded, it seemed to me to be advisable to remove the Vice-Consul and the few British subjects who might still be there to a place of safety. If the roads were to become closed a departure would be impossible, as Tetuan is some 7 miles distant from its port, Rio Martin; and I thought it better to err on the side of prudence than to wait till the situation became more aggravated and the removal of my compatriots a matter of great difficulty. I, therefore, telegraphed this morning to the Admiral to dispatch the "Renown" to Tetuan, and bring away the Vice-Consul and such other British subjects as might be ready to leave. I have given Mr. Bristow a letter for Mr. Bewicke which he is to send to the latter on arriving at Martin; and, if he finds the roads closed, to telegraph for further instructions.

Some time ago, Mr. Bewicke had warned British subjects to leave Tetuan if they desired to do so, and several of them, including two missionary ladies, took their departure. I do not think there can be more than eight or nine British subjects left in the town at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 308.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 41.)

Sir, *Tetuan, May 8, 1903.*

I REGRET to have to report that the tribes are now again menacing the town, and the position is aggravated by the Beni Houzmar having joined the others openly.

The Beni Houzmar have been suspected for some time, but their open defection is no doubt due to the Governor's brutal thrashing of one of their tribe last week, who was accused of speaking against the Sultan. The accuser appears to have grossly exaggerated this man's actions, and the Governor apparently lost his head, and with his own hands commenced to thrash him. The man, nearly dead, was put into prison, but afterwards given over to his friends; he was not expected to live. All the people I have spoken to on the subject find fault with the Governor.

For some time people have not gone out to the neighbouring markets; yesterday a few started for the Thursday market in Wad Ras, but the people took all their money and animals from them.

The last two nights there have been robberies of cattle by armed bands close to the town. The night before last shots were plainly heard near the town. I heard them myself. I am informed the guards went to inform the Governor, but were told he was asleep.

Last night there was an alarm that the tribes were going to attack the town, and the townspeople paraded the streets, armed, nearly all night. About 1 A.M. a certain number of soldiers were sent outside, but they returned, I am told, saying the tribes were in too great force for them. This morning it was again reported that the tribes were coming, and every one nearly is under arms, and there is great excitement.

The town was recently supplied with another 1,000 rifles, making 1,700 received, which, with a quantity of native guns, have been distributed to the people, so the town is in a much better position to withstand an attack than it was; but the supply of cartridges and powder is by no means sufficient to withstand a prolonged attack.

The soldiers have gone out, and I am just informed that they have burnt two villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 309.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 104.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May 10, 1903.*

THE Spanish Minister has informed me that the Moorish Government have requested that a Mission, composed of the Governor of Fez, a chamberlain, and another official, be permitted to land at Melilla in order to enter into negotiations with the tribes near the Spanish lines, with a view of winning them back to their allegiance to the Sultan.

M. de Cologan, considering that this Mission was a peaceful one, transmitted the request to his Government with a recommendation that it should be accepted; but he has learnt from a letter which he has just received from the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs that it is desired that arms and ammunition should also be landed.

To this M. de Cologan is strongly opposed, and he imagines that his Government will be equally so, as it would lead to serious difficulties with the rebels were Melilla to become a base of operations for one of the contending parties.

The Mission proposes to leave here on the 13th instant, and after having visited Melilla, will subsequently proceed to Lala Marina to negotiate with the tribes near Oojdah.

M. de Cologan hopes to receive a reply from his Government to-morrow or next day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 310.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 105.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 10, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, with its inclosure, giving some information as to the position of affairs in the north-east provinces and at Fez.

I would beg leave to draw your Lordship's attention to the statement that the Ghiata tribesmen, who had made their submission and were relied upon to facilitate the advance of the Government forces to Taza, deserted to their homes after the fracas in the camp.

The French Minister informs me that he had received similar intelligence from Fez, and that each of these tribesmen had received 45 dollars (about 7*l.*) as a bounty, besides rifles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 310.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 52.)

Sir, *Fez, May* 7, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a report just made to me by a messenger who has returned from the Taza district. It will be observed that—(1) according to this report the Pretender has, in distrust of him, arrested the Sahara-Debdou Shereef, Abdul Aziz (who is said to be grandson a of the famous Hadj Abdel Kader of Algeria); (2) that he has commenced making reprisals on those of the Ghiata people who have begun treating with the Sultan; and (3) that he is now at Jebouja trying to obtain delivery of the arms recently taken by the Kebdana people, when they captured the Kasbah of Jenada close to Melilla.

A contingent of some 300 Zemmour tribesmen joined the Sultan's camp yesterday, and further contingents are expected. They are horsemen, but most of them on this occasion have brought in their horses without saddles and bridles, so as to procure a refit from the Government which has already been promised to them.

On the evening of the 4th instant, rifles were distributed at the Sultan's camp to some of the Ghiata tribesmen who recently came here. The supply of rifles was about twenty short of the number, and a violent scramble among themselves ensued latterly for them, in which two Ghiata men were shot dead and two were wounded. The brawlers then made off in the darkness to their homes.

The column under Kaid Mahommed-ben-Bushta-el-Baghdadi, dispatched from Fez on 28th April, instead of marching towards Taza (as was anticipated in my despatch No. 49 of 29th April), moved north-east and then north-west against the mountaineer partisans of the Pretender. On 5th instant, the column attacked and scattered a camp of the Pretender's at a place called Fez-el-Bali, killing twenty-four and taking twelve prisoners. The prisoners and the heads of the killed have just arrived here. The Government troops are said to have suffered severely in the affair, but as yet I have not been able to get reliable information as to the extent of their losses.

This morning the preparation of a force against the disturbed districts between Alcazar and Tangier was begun. The force is expected to be made up of draughts from the Mtoga, Shawia, Dukala, and Gindafa contingents, now with the Sultan's camp here, and will leave to-morrow or on the 9th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 310.

Said-el-Bernusi's Report.

I LEFT Fez on Saturday, the 2nd May, and reached Matmata in Hiaina about 6 in the evening.

Next day I reached Meknessa-el-Fouknia at sunset. At Meknessa I met a Ghiati man, who had just come from the Pretender's camp. He said the Pretender prayed in Oojdah on Friday, the 1st May, and had now left Oojdah and returned to Jebouja. On his way to Oojdah the Pretender met the Shereef Muley Abdul Aziz (or Abdul Malek [?] the grandson of Hadj Abdel Kader of Algerian fame), but on doing so had arrested him, and the Shereef was still in the Pretender's custody.

The Shereef's following made no resistance and joined the Pretender. I did not hear how large or how small it was. The Pretender's intention in returning to Jebouja was to procure the delivery by the Guelaya tribesmen of the arms they captured recently at Kasbah Jenada. Next morning, Monday, the 4th May, I was unwell. I remained at Meknessa.

I inquired amongst my friends whether anyone had recently come from the Pretender's camp, and they told me that one Mahommed-ben-Absalom-el-Jerowi-el-Bernousi, a man whom I knew, had done so about two days previously. I got speech of him, and he stated that he had been with the Pretender at Kasbah Selouan (between Kebdana and Melilla, nearer Kebdana than Melilla). On leaving that Kasbah the Pretender's following was small, but how small my informant did not state, but on his marching towards Oojdah he was joined continually by large numbers of men, mostly from the tribes between the Melilla district and Oojdah, and also some horsemen from the Sahara tribes. My informant, however, said he had left the Pretender's expedition before it reached Oojdah. He told me also that some fifty horsemen of Tsul had gone to the Pretender and informed him of the Ghiati's dealings with the Government at Fez and were still with the Pretender, he having not decided what to do in the matter.

On my way through Ghiata, however, I heard everywhere that the house and farm, &c., of the Shereef Hadj Madani-es-Simlani-el-Wargani Shingiti and the dwellings of the Beni Ujan (sept of Ghiata) who had gone to Fez had been burned by the Pretender's order. I left Meknessa on Tuesday, the 5th May, reached Matamata that evening and Fez the following evening, *i.e.*, last night.

No. 311.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 106.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 11, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 103 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received this morning from the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan.

I am happy to state that I received a telegram from the Admiral at Gibraltar, stating that Mr. Bewicke had arrived there this morning, and that there had been no fighting since the 8th instant.

I understand that the Anghera tribes had a meeting yesterday to decide upon their course of action in regard to the troubles at Tetuan, but I have not heard at what decision they arrived. It seems to be probable that renewed attacks will be made on the town, or that Tetuan will be isolated from the outside world, and I think it fortunate that Mr. Bewicke and other British subjects have left the place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 311.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 42.)

Sir, *Tetuan, May 9, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 41 of yesterday, I have the honour to report that the fighting, such as it was, must in some way be considered satisfactory, as the townspeople caught two of the leaders of Beni Ider, and killed another, whose head was brought in. There were also two other prisoners taken.

The losses on the town side were only one killed and several wounded.

Muley Arafa's men appear to have done most work.

It appears that the people from Beni Houzmar, Beni Ider, Beni Masour, and Anghera took part in the fighting, but did not make much of a stand.

There were four villages burned, one of Beni Houzmar, one of Beni Ider, and two very small ones of the Houg.

Dooaz of Anghera, who sent a short time ago to say that he and his party were ready to assist the town, if wanted, is said to have taken part in the fighting, and to have been wounded in the leg.

The Anghera people are also said to have stolen cattle from a village called Beni Salem, in the hills towards Ceuta, and to have robbed a muleteer from Tangier.

The report to-day is that Dooaz' Anghera friends are very angry at his being wounded, and are coming to attack the town.

I was told this afternoon by a Beni Madden man, that Beni Ider had written to them saying, if they do not join them they will go and take all their cattle. The cattle from Martein, I believe, were sent to Beni Madden the other day for greater security.

A small part of the Beni Houzmar came in to-day and slaughtered an ox to the Governor, thus begging pardon. I have not been able to learn the Governor's answer.

On account of the renewed fighting some more Jews are flying, including the Nahon family. I am taking advantage of the steamer they have chartered to send this, as I have late this evening heard that all couriers refuse to go to Tangier at any price, so I fear that I shall not be able to dispatch the mail to-morrow.

I hear the townspeople have got alarmed about the scarcity of cartridges, and have sent a telegram viâ Ceuta to Sid Hadj Mahommed Torres, saying that they must have some more cartridges.

All the Moors I have spoken to appear to think it will be impossible for the tribes to enter the town, but a good many are anxious about the food question, as with all the tribes against the town there may soon come a time when none will be able to bring any provisions in.

Personally, I think the town ought to be able to repulse an attack and keep the tribes out, but they may get in at night when the so-called watchers are asleep, and not at their posts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 312.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 19)

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 19, 1903.*

THE departure of the Minister of War, who was to have left Fez on the 16th May with his column to advance on Taza, will probably be postponed, as I have just received information that the contingent of the Zemmour tribe has suddenly deserted. They numbered about 1,000 men, and they carried off, after a skirmish with the Government troops, all arms and ammunition with which they had been supplied by the Government.

It is further reported that this mutinous tribe is pillaging on its way to Meknes, and its defection may lead to serious consequences.

No. 313.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 42. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, May 20, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, with reference to your telegram No. 39 of the 15th instant, that I am requested by the Foreign Minister to let your Lordship know, very confidentially, that he does not believe the explanation of the French, being convinced that they intend to cross the frontier. Their object, according to him, is the occupation of the valley of the Muluya, and he says that, unless their movements are attentively watched by us and by Spain, we shall find it an accomplished fact. He has not told me whence his information is derived, and I cannot therefore judge whether there is any sufficient cause for his fears; he is, however, evidently anxious.

He particularly asks that the warning he has given may be regarded as private and confidential, and requests me to thank your Lordship for the assurance you have given. He says that if Morocco is to be kept intact, the only chance is for England and Spain to support one another.

No. 314.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic) P. *Tangier, May 22, 1903.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 32 and 33 of yesterday's date.

Without at present having any knowledge of the nature of the explanations given by the French Ambassador, and speaking only from local information, I think that the punitive expeditions will only operate in localities south of Figuig where the attacks occurred.

The operations, I understand, are to be kept within the narrowest possible limits, and permanent occupation of any point is not contemplated, though the frontier may have to be crossed to render the punishment effective.

It would appear that the valley of the Muluya would be outside the sphere of the proposed operations.

(Sent to Sir M. Durand.)

No. 315.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 22, 1903.*

I HAVE received information that Menebhi, the Minister of War, left Fez for Taza with his column on the 16th May.

It appears as if the tribes near Tetuan had mostly dispersed, but the land route between that town and Tangier is, I understand, still unsafe.

Much disorder and intertribal fighting is going on in the district between Alcazar and Tangier. The Moorish Mission mentioned in my telegram No. 108 of the 16th May have accomplished nothing at Melilla and have left that place.

They should arrive to-day in Algeria.

No. 316.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 13, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, giving an interesting report on the situation in his Consular district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 316.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 20. Confidential.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, May 12, 1903.*

ACCORDING to my information, the country south of Rabat, comprised in my Consular district, is at present free from disturbances, although uneasiness exists among the tribes.

The people are better off than they have ever been, they are more lightly taxed, and suffer less extortion, peasants who have been for years refugees in the towns have returned to occupy and work their lands, the prisons are comparatively speaking empty, there are less outstanding debts owing to merchants and traders at the ports, the general commerce of the country has received an impetus, and has been encouraged by the permission granted for coastwise trade free of duty, and for the exportation of many articles of produce, which until recently, were not allowed to be exported, the custom-houses and shipping facilities have been improved, soldiers and tribesmen who have returned to their homes after service in the army, report that they have been well paid, and the truth of their statements is demonstrated by their being in the possession of considerable sums of money.

In a word, the condition of life has improved for the native in every sense. Yet, individual Moors are eager to acquire weapons of defence, and express confidentially the fear that they may have shortly to depend upon themselves to guard their houses and property. This is indicative of the uneasiness I have mentioned, and it is caused by the propaganda of disturbing prophecies, by persistent efforts to discredit the Sultan in the eyes of his subjects, and by the exaggerated versions of the trouble in the north and north-eastern portions of the country.

There would appear to be a persistent effort to bring about a change of Rulers, or to demonstrate to the Sultan his only hope of overcoming his difficulties is in a reactionary policy.

If these efforts succeed, it will be a great misfortune for the people, but a change of Ruler or policy is desired by:—

1. Those who think it to their interest that Morocco should remain weak.

2. Officials who in former times amassed fortunes by methods of oppression and extortion.

3. By the numerous class of traders (mostly Jews) who have, until recently, made a business of advancing money at usurious interest to the peasantry, to enable them to meet the extortionate demands of their officials. It was a common practice too for Governors, when the Central Government made a call upon them, to borrow money from the usurers, and afterwards they would collect such sums from their Kabyles.

All these interests are naturally enough opposed to the Sultan's present policy, and taken together they are formidable. Their principal weapon would appear to be backbiting, which is particularly difficult for the Sultan to contend against, and so far, they have met with such an amount of success that, notwithstanding the Sultan's successful endeavours to improve the condition of his people, His Majesty has become for the moment unpopular, and his power is not believed in.

The Sultan is represented as being personally extravagant, and as spending the money of his people on his own pleasures. I have a fairly intimate acquaintance with many Moors who make such statements, but they know that compared to his father, Mulay Abd-al-Aziz spends little on personal gratification.

Intelligent Moors believe that the troubles in the north and north-east are local affairs, that the tribes engaged have always been virtually independent, that so far as these

tribes are concerned, there is not anything like a general rebellion in favour of the Pretender as opposed to the Sultan; that the rebellious tribes have on former occasions fought the Spaniards and among themselves, independently, and in spite of the Makhzen. They believe too that foreign intrigue is at work to disturb the country. Yet none of these intelligent men will take the part of the Sultan, because His Majesty's reforming policy is opposed to their personal interests.

I have no fear that there will be any serious disturbance in this district, until after the harvest, and by that time, it is to be hoped that his Majesty will have subdued the rebellious tribes in the north, and will be able to give more attention to other parts of his country.

The danger is that while the elements of disorder are assisted by powerful intrigues, there are no counter intrigues and no counter-press campaign on the side of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 317.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 14, 1903.*

THE French Minister informed me this afternoon that the Pretender has established an administration at Oojdah; and that there was considerable ceremony displayed on the occasion of the installation of the new Governor. The functionaries proclaimed Mulay Mohammed as Sultan.

The Mission which has been dispatched by the Sultan to open negotiations from Melilla with the Riff tribes, and subsequently from Lalla Marnia with the tribes round Oojdah, left here yesterday by sea for Melilla. I understand that the members of the Mission were themselves not very sanguine that their efforts would be successful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 318.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 109.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 14, 1903.*

AFTER the action of the 8th instant the tribes who were threatening Tetuan received reinforcements from the Anghera and other neighbouring tribes, and on the 11th instant they appear to have made some very determined attacks on the town from several points. The fighting commenced very soon after His Majesty's ship "Renown" had left with Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, and I am inclined to believe that the assailants awaited her departure before commencing hostilities. The attacks continued all day and into the night, and were vigorously repelled by the garrison, assisted by the townspeople. There was a slight renewal of hostilities on the 12th instant, but the tribes appear to have been somewhat dispirited by the resistance which they had encountered, and they also were probably short of ammunition.

Great destruction is said to have been caused among the orange gardens and farms in the neighbourhood of Tetuan, and, if this be the case, the loss will be a grievous one for the inhabitants.

Since the 12th no fighting has taken place, and it is reported that the tribes are sending emissaries to procure more assistance and a fresh supply of ammunition. Their losses are said to have been considerable, and the cooler heads among them, it is reported, are doubting the utility of continuing to attack a walled town when only armed with muskets of various patterns.

With a singular want of foresight, the tribes do not appear to have made any attempt to occupy the road leading to the sea, and the Tangier authorities have thereby been enabled to send a certain number of reinforcements and a certain quantity of ammunition by that route. If the communications between Tetuan and the surrounding country had

been completely severed, as was anticipated, the surrender of the town would have been a question of limited time.

It is possible that the tribes may yet adopt these measures, and if they do so they may achieve success.

The Spanish cruiser "Infanta Isabel" is at present at Rio Martin, in order to convey away the Spanish Consul and some 200 Spanish subjects. A considerable number of Hebrew residents have already left. Three British subjects, natives of Gibraltar, declined for various reasons to leave with Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, and were informed that if they did remain they did so at their own risk and peril.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 319.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 110.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 16, 1903.

THE Spanish Minister informed me this morning that he had received a telegram from the Governor of Melilla, stating that a message had arrived from the Pretender to the effect that he would prevent any communication between Melilla and the interior so long as the Moorish Mission remained in that place.

M. de Cologan gave me to understand that the Governor was somewhat vexed at the arrival of the Moorish Mission, as he had anticipated that it would create difficulties with the neighbouring tribes, and that Melilla might be put to some inconvenience if its supplies from the hinterland were to cease.

M. de Cologan remarked that if the Pretender were to carry out his threat, and if the presence of the Mission were to prove an embarrassment, the Governor could request the latter to proceed on their journey to Algeria. At the same time, he did not see how, without giving offence to the Sultan, the Spanish Government could well have refused to admit the Mission into Melilla.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 320.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 111.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 16, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting upon the general situation in his district.

If the tenders of submission on the part of the Ghiata and others are really sincere, and not made with the object of obtaining rifles and money and then decamping, the advance of the column of the Minister of War to Taza should be considerably facilitated. I understand, however, from other sources that the Ghiata are much divided among themselves, and that there has been considerable fighting among them. The information is borne out in a measure by the report of Mr. Macleod's messenger, inclosed in my despatch No. 112 of this day's date; and it is possible that the Minister of War is delaying his advance till he ascertains whether the loyal or disloyal faction obtains the upper hand.

I trust that your Lordship will concur in my having approved the reply which Mr. Macleod gave to the Branes tribesmen in regard to their request that he would present them to a member of the Government. It is desirable that every European, and especially a British official, should carefully refrain from mediating between rebel tribes and their Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 330.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 54.)
Sir, *Fez, May* 11, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that further parties of Ghiata tribesmen, numbering probably about 200, some 50 mounted men from Tsul, and 2 men from Branes came into Fez on the 9th and 10th instant. The latter are the first people from Branes who have ventured to Fez since that tribe joined the Pretender, and if, as is likely, they are treated similarly to those who have come in from Ghiata and Tsul, larger parties of the Branes will probably begin to come in before long.

The two men in question are staying with a fellow tribesman of theirs resident in Fez, whom I have employed on several occasions to visit Taza district to collect news, and yesterday he asked whether I would introduce them to one of the Viziers, with the view of opening negotiations between their tribe and the Court. After thinking the matter over for a few hours, I answered, however, that, much as I should have liked to do the Court, and his friends also, a service, I thought they would do better to have recourse to one of their Shereef acquaintances, who usually mediate in such cases. Those tribes, I explained to him, had a widespread, but quite unfounded, impression that Europeans had been interfering in native matters of late at the Court, and the report of any Europeans being the go-between, in a case like this, would, I feared, give colour to that belief. Also I thought (to myself) that the refusal might, when the men returned home and told it to their friends, itself tend to do something to dissipate the ideas that Europeans were interfering in their affairs, and I felt sure that in the present juncture they would find no difficulty in obtaining a safe conduct and introduction elsewhere.

Yesterday forenoon some Zemmour tribesmen persisted in grazing their horses on some growing crops south of Wad Fez. The owners fired on the Zemmours, and wounded two of them, whereupon the Zemmours drew off.

Late in the afternoon a similar affair occurred at Jebel Taghats, north of Wad Fez, with Beni Hassen tribesmen, two of whom were wounded. The rest of this party rushed into town through the outer market, raised a panic there and at Bab Mhroke, and the gate was closed for an hour or so.

It is reported that two caravans, of which one was carrying the Sultan's allowances to his kindred at Tafilet and a village on the Sefroo–Tafilet road, were pillaged last week, and also that Kaïd Omar-al-Yusi's house at El Kasbah-es-Shorfa has again been attacked.

The Beni Zeroual are reported to have sacrificed and submitted to Kaïd Mohamad-ben-Baghdadi, after an unsuccessful attempt to induce the Beni Mestara to arrange their recent defeat by that Kaïd.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 321.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 16, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch, with its inclosures, which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, giving some interesting details of a journey made by a messenger from Fez through the Taza districts to Oojdah.

The defeat of the Beni Iznaten tribe by the Algerian Emir and the flight of their Governor into French territory was confirmed to me by the French Minister.

The Kaïd of Azun Sidi Muluk, which place is mentioned in the report, has been appointed by the Pretender Governor of Oojdah.

Kaïd Omar El Yusi, who is on the side of the Government, appears to have met with a reverse, and to have returned to the Sefroo district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 321.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 53.)

Sir,

Tangier, May 11, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a report made to me by a messenger whom I sent recently to Taza, Debdou, and Oojdah to collect news, and who returned here on the 8th instant.

I also inclose a photo-map in illustration of the report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 321.

Abdeselam Shijai's Report.

I LEFT Fez, on Tuesday the 22nd April, and slept at Ulad Abdelkrim in Hiayna. Next day I reached Beni Hamed, in Ghiata, slept there, and arrived at Taza the following morning, about 10 A.M. I did not wait there, however, but proceeded at once to Kasbah-el-Msun, and passed the night there. Next day I reached Melilo, about 15 miles south-west of Kasbah-el-Merada, and from there next day I went to Debdou. I slept there with a friend of mine called Mohd-ben-Sadik. Next day I went to Ain-beni-Matar; and the following day to a village near Kasbah Hadj Sali. On the next day, about 4 o'clock, I reached Oojdah. I found everything in confusion there, the Kaïd, all officials, and most of the merchants, Moslems and Jews, had fled to Lalla Maghnia or Tlemcen. The populace generally had acknowledged Bu Hamara. From Oojdah I went to Ain Sidi Muluk. I spent two days there with the "emhalla" of the grandson of Hadj Abdelkader. Thereafter I went to the Sok of Wad Za, near Kasbah Muley Ismaïl. Thence I went to the village called Ulad Daho, in Huara, near Jebel Gueliz, between Mtalsa and Beni Bu Yahiya. Next day I reached Kasbah Msun and slept there. Thence I marched direct to Ghiata, to a village near Akba-beni-Megara. Thence I went to Sidi Abdejjebil, at Bu Zimmelan, in Beni Warain. From here I went to Tuaba, in Hiayna, near Wad Inawen, and entered Fez this forenoon.

The Marabout Abdelaziz, grandson of Hadj Abdelkader-el-Mehdiyi, had a following of people from Rashida, Aissa-ben-Amer, Ulad-el-Hadj of Muluya, Ulad Sidi Ali Bu Shorafa, Ulad Sidi Mohammed-ben-Hamed, Ulad Sidi Sheikh-el-Gharaba, Beni Matar, Beni Gil Zekara, Beni Ali, Beni Buzeggou Mehdia, Auzad Shijah, Ahl Debdou and Beni Ukil. He attacked the Beni Iznaten under Kaïd Wuld Bashir-el-Messaud and defeated them. Their Kaïd fled to "Adjeroud." The Beni Iznaten then made peace with him and proclaimed the Pretender. This happened about the 24th April. Sidi Abdelaziz then went to Azun Sidi Muluk, where he still remains. It is not true that the Pretender arrested the Shereef.

I tried to "zor" (do homage to) the Shereef, when I was in his camp at Azun Sidi Muluk, but was always turned away. From inquiries I made, however, he was described as follows: Thin, short black beard, large eyes, black in colour, large eyelashes, long eyebrows, light complexion. Age 25–30 years. The Pretender certainly did not pray in Oojdah on Friday last (1st May), but was expected to do so this Friday (8th May). The Pretender had previously been at Kasbah, Iseluan and Jebuja. Thereafter, and before the defeat of Beni Iznaten, he met the Shereef Abdelaziz. He (the Pretender) then returned to Jebuja. I do not remember hearing at what place he met the Shereef.

The tribes of Beni Wassin, Al Assah, and Miserda, Jebala beyond Adjeroud (all in French jurisdiction) sent deputations to "zor" the Pretender and gave him "hedia" (presents). I do not know whether they remained with him or returned to Algeria. In Ghiata all the people who went to Fez and took arms from the Government have had their houses plundered and burned. The house of the Shereef Hadj Madani es-Sinelain es-Shingiti has been burned down and his son stripped and made prisoner. I saw the latter clad in a shirt only at Akba-beni-Megara, and a prisoner, on my way back to Fez. Of forty horsemen who defended the house only thirteen escaped.

In Branes and Tsul all is quiet.

I did not hear of anything doing in Figuig district. I heard at Oojdah, however, that Aits Atta, Aits Hadidi, Aits Izdig, Aits Tsarochen, Ulad-el-Hadj of Ras Moulouia, i.i Aits Moghad, Aits Bulman (Jabara), Beni Mgild (of Ras Moulouia in Aits Yusi near

Gujo) are in the movement against Kaid Omar-el-Yusi. Fighting occurred, and eight Aits Yusi were killed at a place called Maomosha. (10th May. Kaid Omar-el-Yusi returned to Sefroo last night.—J. M. M.)

When I was on my way back to Fez I saw many Ghiata coming in. Yesterday a number of Tsul came in and are to-day at the Dar Makhzen being received by His Shereefian Majesty.

Fez, May 8, 1903.

No. 322.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 62.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 26, 1903.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 111 of the 16th instant, transmitting a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting on the situation in his district.

I concur in your approval of the reply given by Mr. Macleod to the Branes tribesmen in regard to their request that he would present them to a member of the Moorish Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 323.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 112.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 27, 1903.

I AM informed that the documents relative to the Spanish Loan have arrived in Tangier, and have been forwarded on to Fez for the signature and approval of the Moorish authorities.

The terms are, I am informed, similar to those of the English and French contracts.

No. 324.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 36. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, May 21, 1903.

THE news from Morocco during the last few weeks has not, from a Spanish point of view, been very disturbing.

It is true that the disorders in Tetuan and elsewhere have given rise to some apprehension for the safety of the Spanish subjects scattered along the coast, and this apprehension is not diminished by the fact, very well known to the Spaniards, that their fleet and army are in no condition at present to enter into serious operations across the straits.

The Spaniards are also haunted by a sense of isolation, and this has been accentuated by the late voyages of the King and President Loubet. The Spanish press has been full of articles on the subject, and the general feeling seems to be that England and France are inclined to look upon this country as a negligible quantity. It has even been suggested that the object of the King's voyage was the formation of a compact between England, France, and Italy for the settlement of the Morocco question without reference to Spain.

The Spanish Government itself has not been wholly free from nervousness on this point, and I have been questioned rather anxiously as to a possible change in the attitude of His Majesty's Government with regard to the maintenance of the *status quo*. Some rumours from Moorish sources about the movements of the French on the eastern frontier of Morocco have also caused disquiet here, and there have been signs of suspicion. The fact is that the Spaniards do not altogether like the apparent

rapprochement between France and England. They rather see advantage to themselves in playing off one great Power against the other.

Nevertheless, I do not think that either the Government or the country is really alarmed or excited on the subject of Morocco. It is believed here that the insurrection has touched high-water mark, and that the tide is beginning to turn. A Spanish loan to Morocco has been successfully negotiated, which has gratified the national pride, and the prevailing impression seems to be that before very long matters in that country will resume their ordinary course. As to the proceedings of England and France, there may be some uneasiness and suspicion, but there is, I think, no strong sentiment of soreness and alarm.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

No. 325.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 258.)
My Lord, *Paris, May 27, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a report by Colonel Stuart-Wortley, Military Attaché to this Embassy, respecting Moorish reinforcements for Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 325.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart-Wortley to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 31.)
Sir, *Paris, May 27, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, that in the "Matin" of this date there is published a Havas telegram from Tangier stating that a detachment of 140 soldiers had arrived at that place on board a ship, who were being sent by the Moorish Government as a reinforcement to the garrison of Figuig, and who would proceed thither viâ Oudjda.

There appears to be no doubt that the French Government intend that Figuig shall be shortly occupied by French troops, a battery of artillery having in the last few days been mobilized and dispatched from Oran to Ain Sefra.

It is not probable that the Moorish Government intend to offer any resistance to the French occupation of Figuig—even were they in a position to do so—it may, therefore, be presumed that if the dispatch of Moorish reinforcements to Figuig be a fact, it is more with a view of supporting the Sultan's authority in handing over Figuig to the French than to any contemplated resistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. STUART-WORTLEY,
Military Attaché.

No. 326.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, May 30, 1903.*

ONE of the leading Madrid papers publishes a message from its corespondent at Melilla, in which he describes the arrival there of a small Moorish contingent on its way to Figuig.

I am told by the Foreign Minister that he has received information to the effect that the Sultan's people will co-operate with the French forces, and will, in fact, be led by French officers in the expedition against the Southern tribes.

A telegram from the same correspondent has appeared, stating that different contingents of the loyal tribes will assemble at Ujda to start thence up the valley of the Muluya to cut off Roghi's retreat. The valley of the Muluya is, the Foreign Minister believes, the point where the most observant watch should be kept on the movements of the French, but he is desirous that the French should not learn what he has said on this subject.

No. 327.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 115.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 20, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, relative to the desire of the Moorish Government that British subjects should abstain for the present from riding or walking outside the walls of the town. Mr. MacLeod's reply to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the notice which he has issued seem to me sensible and reasonable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 327.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 56.)
Sir, *Fez, May 13, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Vizier for Foreign Affairs, Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, sent for me yesterday and stated that, in view of the presence of so many Berbers and other wild people at Fez just now, the Sultan had ordered him to ask all the Consuls to forbid foreigners riding or walking outside the walls of Fez. If after this warning, foreigners did so, the Moorish Government would not be responsible for the consequences.

I answered that I could not for a moment admit the non-liability of the Moorish Government for events outside the walls of Fez, but, nevertheless, I cordially agreed with the prudence of foreigners acting as suggested, and I would issue a notice to British subjects in that sense.

I inclose herewith a copy of the notice in question, the terms of which I hope will meet with your approval.

The Vizier spoke similarly to the French Vice-Consul and the Acting German Consul. There are so very few foreigners in Fez, at least foreigners not in the Sultan's sevice, that the Vizier's demand amounts in practice to little more than a personal request to the Consuls themselves.

I would remark that the Moslem inhabitants of the city are exposed to quite as great (if indeed not greater) risks of bad treatment at the hands of the tribesmen referred to, as are Europeans, for the propensities of these wild people are mostly in the way of highway robbery, to which natives' clothes, animals, arms, and grain are the greatest incentives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 327.

Notice to British Subjects.

IN view of the presence in and around Fez of so many tribesmen from remote parts of the country, frequently men of habitually lawless character, and wholly unused to seeing Europeans, the Moorish Government has requested that foreigners should, for the present, refrain, as far as avoidable, from going outside the city walls.

I therefore direct the attention of British subjects to the above warning, and earnestly recommend them to do their utmost to avoid coming across such people either inside or outside the city.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

Fez, May 13, 1903.

No. 328.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 116.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 22, 1903.

AN unfortunate incident occurred at Fez on the 15th instant which may not have merely local consequences. The Zemmour tribe, which your Lordship may recollect had been in rebellion last autumn in the vicinity of Mequinez, had been induced to send a considerable contingent, numbering, I understand, about 1,000 men, to the Sultan's army at Fez.

These lawless and turbulent people have been causing considerable anxiety to the Moorish Government during their stay at the capital. They appear to have been exercising their predatory habits both in and outside the town, going so far, I am told, as to murder soldiers on guard for the sake of purloining their rifles.

The Government, however, took no action against them, fearing that, should they do so, the whole tribe would again rise in revolt. Arms and ammunition were supplied to the contingent on the 15th instant, and orders were issued that they should join the main body under the Minister of War, who were in readiness to start on their advance towards Taza.

The Zemmour declined to obey orders. They commenced pillaging some shops in the town, and also attacked some caravans coming into Fez. Soldiers were called out, who fired on the rioters, inflicting some loss, on which the whole body decamped towards Mequinez, carrying with them the Government arms and ammunition.

They were reported to be plundering all along the road to Mequinez, and since then nothing definite has been heard of them.

The Minister of War is, I know, most anxious as to the attitude of the several contingents of which his heterogeneous force is composed; and the example of the Zemmours may very possibly be followed by others when a favourable opportunity occurs.

The system on which these expeditions are organized is exceedingly defective; and unless strict discipline is maintained, which appears, under the present circumstances, to be an impossibility, the collection of various tribes animated with no friendly feelings towards each other, and with no feeling of loyalty to the Government and intent only on plunder, is a source of danger rather than of strength.

It is unfortunate that measures have not been adopted for organizing a compact and well-ordered force on whom some reliance could be placed.

From a letter which I received last evening from Fez it would appear that the Minister of War left the capital on the 16th instant on his advance towards Taza; and under present conditions the progress of his campaign will be watched with some anxiety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 329.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 117.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 22, 1903.

THE French Minister informs me that the Moorish Mission, which had been for the past few days at Melilla, was to have left there yesterday in a French steamer, and should arrive at Nemours this morning. From that place they will proceed to Lalla

Marnia, and endeavour to negotiate with the neighbouring tribes towards facilitating the re-establishment of the Sultan's authority at Oojdah.

The Mission, as was anticipated, failed in their object at Melilla, and will probably not meet with better success in Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 330.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 118.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 22, 1903.

THE tribes who have been around Tetuan in considerable force since their attacks on that town on the 11th and 12th instant appear to be now dispersing. The arrival of reinforcements and of munitions of war at Tetuan, and also the unwillingness of mountain tribes to act for any length of time in common, unless there is a fair prospect of achieving their ends, seem to have caused discouragement.

The land route between here and Tetuan is still unsafe; and there is no security that the tribes will speedily settle down quietly.

The district between here and Alcazar is much disturbed, and inter-tribal fighting is very active.

These occurrences have consequently rendered the road to Fez extremely insecure; and there have been several robberies of postal couriers, while others have had difficulty in accomplishing their journeys safely.

The column which the Moorish Government dispatched from Fez to re-establish order in the districts round Tangier still remains at Alcazar, awaiting further orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 331.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 119.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 24, 1903.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, in a report dated the 19th instant, states that the column under the Minister of War is advancing, by very slow marches in a north-easterly direction from the capital, against some hill tribes, in the Shinhaga district. After punishment has been inflicted on these tribes, as to the nature of whose offence there is no information, the column is to proceed towards Taza. A contingent composed of Ghiata and Beni Warein tribesmen who have received arms from the Government, is marching along the Wad Imawen road through Hiayna.

Mr. MacLeod further reports that it is rumoured that the Pretender has left the Riff country, and is now in Taza. This may be the case, but from information recently received by the Spanish Minister, there has been no mention of his having quitted Zelouan, which lies near to Melilla.

The Government have circulated a leaflet among the tribes with the Minister of War offering a reward of 50,000 dollars (about 7,500*l.*) to the tribe who will deliver the Pretender alive, or 20,000 dollars (about 3,000*l.*) for his head.

There is no further news as to the mutinous Zemmour, beyond that they lost a certain number of men in their fights with those who resisted the acts of pillage they were committing on their way to Mequinez, and that the Government have sent some Shereefs to endeavour to induce them by bribes and persuasion to resume their place with the column of the Minister of War.

There is a very large quantity of stores, munitions, and grain at Laraiche for the Government forces, for the transport of which it is estimated 12,000 or 15,000 camels would be required, but owing to the insecurity of the roads, some doubt is felt whether these supplies can be forwarded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 332.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June 2.*)

(No. 270.)
My Lord, *Paris, June 1, 1903.*

M. JONNART, the new Governor-General of Algeria, who has been engaged for some days in a journey of inspection in Southern Oran, proceeded yesterday to the pass overlooking the oasis of Figuig from the south. Observing the threatening demeanour of the inhabitants he fell back with his two companies of the Foreign Legion, but was attacked by a considerable force of natives who had concealed themselves on his line of retreat. They were beaten off with some loss on both sides, but his Excellency is reported to have made up his mind that the pacification of the oasis must be taken in hand by the French military force at Ain Sefra. The necessary measures, including possibly a bombardment of the principal villages, to compel the surrender of the marauders who have been giving so much trouble, are said to have been already concerted between the Governor-General and the military authorities.

I have the honour to inclose from the "Temps"* an account of M. Jonnart's recent proceedings, and from to-day's "Matin"* a report of the ambuscade described above

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 333.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June 2.*)

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 2, 1903.*

I AM informed by M. Saint René Taillandier that when the Governor of Algeria visited the neighbourhood of Figuig, the tribe inhabiting the southern part of the Oasis fired upon him and his party; no mention was made as to casualties. The Governor of Figuig was among the French party.

No progress is being made by the Moorish Mission at Lalla Marnia in their negotiations with tribes near Oojdah to return to their allegiance to the Sultan. All the tribes in that neighbourhood have, I understand, embraced the cause of the Pretender.

With regard to the operations of the Minister of War I have no recent news; he seems to have made no serious advance upon Taza.

(Above sent to Sir M. Durand.)

No. 334.

Memorandum by Mr. F. E. Joseph.

IN leaving this letter I would like to add that it confirms what I have learnt privately, viz., that the Sultan finds the three loans of 300,000*l.* (*i.e.*, Cassel, Bank de Paris and Madrid) are inconvenient. He wants to pay off and at the same time raise an extra sum of 600,000*l.*

I have little doubt but that I can raise a loan of 1,500,000*l.* for the Sultan in London, but before trying I think it best to ascertain, if possible, what the feeling of His Majesty's Government would be, and whether they would feel disposed to support the leaders with any assurance of protection in case of default. It may be of interest to add that about a month ago I sounded the Deutsche Bank as to a German Loan of 300,000*l.*, but, after an interval of about a week, I found they were disinclined to entertain the idea.

(Signed) F. E. JOSEPH.

Queen Anne's Mansions, June 3, 1903.

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* Not printed.

Annex 1.

Mr. P. J. Harmer to Mr. F. E. Joseph.

Morocco House, St. Mary Axe, E.C., June 2, 1903.

Sir,

I AM desired by Mr. Ernest Forwood to send you extract of letter he has just received from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, and this you will find on opposite page.

Please respect the Kaïd's request for secrecy.

Yours truly,
(Signed) P. J. HARMER.

Annex 2.

Sir H. Maclean to Mr. Forwood.

(Extract.)

"THANK you for your letter about loan. The Government, as I wrote and told you, will require a further loan of 1,500,000*l.*, part of this loan to pay off the 900,000*l.* borrowed from England, France, and Spain. If you could arrange for this loan I could carry it through, and could obtain the collection of all Customs duties at Darelbaida and Mazagan for the interest and to provide a sinking fund. The party who made the loan to have the right of having an agent at these two ports to see that the money is paid and dues are properly collected.

"You must keep the whole thing private, and if you are unable to do it, please let me know at once, and say nothing about it.

"If you are able to carry this out let me know at once."

No. 335.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June 3.*)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 3, 1903.*

FOLLOWING is confidential:—

I am told that the proposed punitive expedition by the French has greatly perturbed the Moorish Government, who consider that the Sultan's position in the country will be seriously affected by this action. They say that the French should protect their own frontier, and that they will punish the guilty parties themselves, when they are free from their present difficulties. The Moorish Government also talk of appealing to the Powers.

I am averse to giving any advice, but if they press me, I propose to state that they should consult with the French authorities, who, I feel certain, are but taking necessary preventive measures, and also I would discourage any appeal to the Power

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No. 336.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June 3.*)

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 3, 1903.*

I HAVE received information from Sid Mehed-el-Menebhi, the Minister of War, that his force has inflicted severe losses on the tribes to the north-west of Fez, and that their country has been devastated.

He informs me that his intention is now to advance through the Tsul district to Taza.

He feared that the tribes which he has conquered might cut his communications, and it was for this reason that he wished to completely subdue them before undertaking his forward movement towards Taza.

It is reported that the Pretender is still in the vicinity of Melilla.

No. 337.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 274.)
My Lord, *Paris, June 3, 1903.*

THE inclosed article from the "Figaro" gives some further particulars concerning the recent attack on the French Governor-General and the progress of events in the neighbourhood of Figuig.* The assault is now regarded as part of an organized rising embracing the entire region. M. Jonnart is engaged at Algiers in devising the necessary measures of repression. Some movements of troops are already reported, but it does not appear that active operations will actually commence for some days. M. Jonnart's speeches point to the infliction of sharp punishment, but he disclaims any intention to annex the disturbed territory. Even M. Etienne, the well-known Colonial politician and President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, declares that there is no question of even a temporary occupation.

The projected measures are justified on the grounds of the great provocation received, and of the express terms of the Treaty of 1845 between France and Morocco, which authorized either party to pursue and punish marauders in the territory of the other.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 338.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 4, 1903.*

I HAVE received letters from Fez dated the 31st ultimo, inclosing a report from an agent of Mr. MacLeod, who was at the camp of the Pretender on the 31st May.

The agent reported that Bu Hamara was at that time moving towards Taza, where he intended to past the Mulud feast, which takes place on the 9th of this month.

Up to the 30th May, the Minister of War was still to the north of Fez, and had not yet advanced towards Taza; the Pretender has sent an Algerian Emir to oppose his advance.

It appears from the report that the intervening tribes are, in the main, still faithful to the Pretender, and intend to resist the Government forces.

I think we should hear shortly of a battle between the Minister of War's forces and those of the Pretender under the Algerian Emir.

No. 339.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 120.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 27, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 101 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that the Moorish steamer "El Turki," which was sent to Laraiche to embark the Moorish garrison destined for Figuig, returned here yesterday. The French officer, who is to be in charge of the force during its passage through Algerian territory, also went to Laraiche accompanied by a Moorish official, who has been employed on the Franco-Moorish Boundary Commission.

The detachment at Laraiche was composed of some 400 men, and has been the cause of much anxiety to the inhabitants of that place during its stay there, as the men have been exceedingly disorderly, and have committed many acts of robbery.

On the arrival at Laraiche of the "El Turki," many of the men refused to embark, although liberal offers of pay were tendered to them. Eventually 140 were induced to

* Not printed.

go on board, and the rest had to be left behind. Several had accepted the advance of pay, and then decamped. It is not likely that this weak detachment of 140 men will be of much assistance to the Moorish Governor of Figuig, whose position appears to be insecure; but the French authorities seem to attach importance to his receiving some reinforcements.

The detachment is kept on board the "El Turki" in this bay, and will be tran shipped to-day or to-morrow to a French steamer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 340.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 121.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 27, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch and a photo-map, which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting on the progress of the Minister of War's expedition. He appears to be moving in a north-westerly direction, and not making an advance on Taza.

Mr. MacLeod also states that some 300 to 500 Zemmour tribesmen, belonging to a second contingent of that tribe, have come into the camp at Wad Fez, and it is hoped that their appearance may lead to a return of the fugitive first contingent.

It is reported that the Pretender is still at Kasbah Iselwan, about 25 miles south of Melilla.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 340.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 58.)
Sir, *Fez, May 21, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report that during yesterday between 300 and 500 Zemmour tribesmen have come into their camp at Wad Fez. So far as I have yet learned, however, these men do not belong to the contingent which deserted on Friday last, but are part of a second contingent of that tribe which was then on its way to join the Sultan's camp here. Their coming will, it is expected, probably lead to the return of the fugitives, and to further contingents from Zemmour joining the Sultan's forces.

According to a report which I have just received from my correspondent with the Minister of War's expedition, it appears that Sid-el-Menebhi marched from Hajra Kahela (or Sboo) to Sidi-Ali-Bu-Ammar, about two miles west of the confluence of Wad Leben with Wad Inawen in Hiayna, on 18th instant.

On 19th he marched to Sok-el-Tnein-el-Alja in Sheraga, and on 20th to Sok-el-Had of Bushabel in Sheraga, about 10 miles south south-east of Muley Bushta. He was striking camp this morning when my messenger left, and the latter understood would be at Muley Bushta this afternoon.

It appears that the force in Beni Zeroual lately under Kaïd Mohammed-el-Bagh-dadi, is now commanded by the Basha Abdelkrim-es-Shirgui of New Fez. Yesterday this force had an encounter with the Beni Msgilda near Muley Bushta, and took seven heads and seven prisoners. The prisoners and the heads arrived at Sid-el-Menebhi's camp this morning, just as my informant was leaving, but he has no particulars of the Government losses or other details of the affair.

From the direction which the Minister of War has taken, it would appear that the Court's intention is to subdue the tribes north of Hiayna before moving towards Taza. My informant states further that food and forage are plentiful in the camp, there being abundant supplies available from the almost ripe crops in Sheraga. A courier from Kasbah-el-Ayun, who is, I expect, a man who once before came to the Government from the (ejected) Kaïd of the place, reached the Minister of War yesterday, and according to this man the Pretender is still at Kasbah Iselwan, 25 miles or so south of Melilla.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 340.

Photo Map.

[Not printed.]

No. 341.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 122.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 28, 1903.

THE intertribal fighting which has been taking place during the past two or three weeks in the Gharbia and Sahel districts in the neighbourhood of Tangier shows signs of coming to a termination. The column which was sent from Fez to re-establish order, and which for some unaccountable reason remained idle at Alcazar, at last received orders to move into the disturbed districts, and their repressive measures seem to have frightened some of the turbulent tribes into soliciting pardon.

In the course of the disturbance and also during the suppression of the agitation, a considerable number of villages have been burnt and much property, in the form of live-stock, has changed hands. Many of the inhabitants of the districts have fled into the mountains, and I am informed that the Gharbia district is now quite deserted.

The Sultan's troops are, according to a circular from Hadj Mohammed Torres, of which I beg leave to inclose a translation, to be stationed at a place some four hours' distant from Tangier, and it is to be hoped that their presence will secure the freedom of the caravan roads to Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 341.

Hadj Mohammed Torres to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Tangier,* 28 *Safar,* 1321 (*May* 26, 1903).

WITH reference to the Circular I addressed to you on the 17th of Showal relative to the intention of the Makhzen to punish the people of the Fahs, His Majesty has issued orders to the force now at Alcazar to encamp at Sigidla, between the Akba-el-Hamra and Ain Dalia to undertake the necessary operations against the mountain tribes from the district of Alcazar to Tangier and Tetuan, and insure the security of the roads, and the force is expected immediately for this purpose.

I inform you that you may have cognizance thereof.

May you, &c.
(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

No. 342.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 124.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 29, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit translation of a letter which I have received from Cid Bubkir-el-Ghanjowy from Morocco city, which gives some news as to the condition of affairs in that district. Cid Bubkir was for many years an unofficial agent of the Legation, and as he is a person of wealth and with many connections, he has several sources of information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 342.

Cid Bubkir-el-Ghanjowy to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Marrakesh,* 26 *Safar,* 1321 (*May* 24, 1903).

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Marrakesh and its neighbourhood are quiet at present, save that the officials have opened the Sultan's stores and are selling European rifles and cartridges to the people, they having sold a very considerable number of them to the country people. They sell them openly at the gate of the Dar Makhzen, the same as by public auction. The townspeople and thoughtful people are troubled at this, and do not agree with it. The Makhzen heard of it and wrote to the officials, who pay no attention. Many stores have been emptied. The country people are now strong and eagerly buying horses and guns, and waiting for news from the Gharb. When they have gathered in the harvest highway robbery and the siege of towns will commence. This is what they desire, although the Sultan has done them nothing but the greater good, and has oppressed none.

The Governor of Tiznit, Oolad Anflus, and his Khalifa, have both died, and on their death the Soos people burnt the houses of the Governors and Sheikhs, killing everyone they found in them. The road is safe; the Kabila of Shiedma, Mtooga Huha, and Oolad Ben Sbaa are fighting each other, but the road is free. From what I hear in the country and in town a big disturbance will occur in the Houg shortly before the next feast (about 9th June), as they hear of what is happening in the neighbourhood of Fez, and of the sums of money His Sheerefian Majesty is giving to the Berbers and others who do not assist the Makhzen. They take the money and disappear; this is doing harm, and there is no good counsellor to the Makhzen but the Minister of War, who neither sleeps nor eats. He is doing all he can for the Government, but no one helps him save God. In short, the people, some of the officials, and the majority of the Makhazneea, and many of the soldiers are deceiving the Makhzen, and the money that the Government is distributing to the Berbers is the cause of this harm.

Peace.

(Signed) BUBKIR-EL-GHANJOWY.

No. 343.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 125.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 30, 1903.

I HAVE received letters from Fez, dated the 25th instant, which report no very rapid or decided progress in the operations of the column under the Minister of War. El Menebhi has found the country to the north-west of Fez practically deserted by its inhabitants, and he has burnt some forty villages which had been abandoned by the natives. So far as I can gather, an advance column under the Basha of New Fez received a somewhat serious check in the district of the Beni Zeroual, but some reinforcements which were dispatched by the Minister of War enabled him to retrieve the situation.

All these operations seem to me really purposeless, and delay the advance on Taza, where a successful blow would have some tangible results. I was informed that, in consequence of negotiations with the intervening tribes, the road from Fez to Taza was free, and that a military promenade over the 70 or 80 miles which separate the latter place from the capital was all that was needed to complete the first portion of the campaign.

At the date of my last letters from Fez, nine days had elapsed since the Minister of War had struck his camp and commenced his advance, and during that period El Menebhi has only succeeded in burning deserted villages and capturing a handful of prisoners, and he is no nearer Taza than when he started.

I received some interesting information from an intelligent native, who had held a post at Oojdah before the evacuation of that place by the Government authorities. He was offered a place of trust by the Pretender, but as he has considerable property near Mequinez he declined to enter the service of the latter in fear of the Government confiscating his estates. He travelled from Oojdah through the Riff country to Melilla, and stayed for a time at Zelouan, where the Pretender had his camp. He stated that

the latter's influence extends from the lines of Ceuta down to Figuig and beyond, and that unprecedented order and security reign throughout a territory which hitherto was constantly the scene of intertribal disputes, and where life and property were proverbially insecure.

The Pretender, he said, had installed Governors at all the principal localities, and sternly repressed any robberies and disorder. He was, he added, regarded with fear and awe by all the inhabitants, who were convinced that by supernatural gifts he could detect any evil doings, and that it was of no avail endeavouring to attempt to conceal anything from him. The Pretender, he said, had only some 250 or 300 horsemen with him; but that within two days he would have no difficulty in assembling a large force. My informant had no doubt that the Pretender was Jellali-el-Zerhoni, whom he knew personally; but he seemed to think that his identity was of little moment, as the common people regarded him as a personage whom they dared not disobey, and who was endowed with powers which it would be dangerous to ignore.

So much romance and mystery have gathered round the Pretender, and which appeal so strongly to the Oriental mind, that, though he may be an imposter, he has become a very formidable adversary to the established authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 344.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 5.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, June* 5, 1903.

A VERY strong feeling has been aroused here by the operations of the French on the frontier of Morocco, though it is recognized that Spain is not strong enough to interfere. The belief here is universal that the French intend both to keep Figuig and to push forward elsewhere as well, and thereby it is considered that they will encroach upon the historical rights of Spain. The tendency at present is to look for support to England.

I saw the Foreign Minister yesterday; he was deeply concerned about the matter, and assured me once more that the French were aiming at the valley of the Muluya. The general impression here is that the French are encouraged by our recent friendly attitude towards them, and that serious results may ensue, if we do not at once begin to exhibit a watchful interest in their designs. This apprehension is evidently shared by the Foreign Minister.

No. 345.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 6.)

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 6, 1903.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 38 of to-day's date, I have the honour to inform you that I had private information on the 26th May that the Moorish Government had a further loan in contemplation, which they expected to raise at 4½ per cent., and which they could use to pay off the three existing 6 per cent. loans.

I discouraged the idea privately, expressing strong doubts that a loan could be raised at a rate of interest as low as 4½ per cent., and I also said that I considered that for the present the Moorish Government had borrowed quite enough.

It appears that before my letter reached Fez the negotiations mentioned in your Lordship's telegram were commenced.

No. 346.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June* 6, 1903.

YOUR telegram of the 3rd instant, No. 114.

Any idea of an appeal to the Powers should be discouraged.

The French Ambassador, in informing me, on the 13th ultimo, of the necessity of sending a punitive expedition against the tribes who attacked the French convoy, added that his Government had no ulterior motive in these operations.

You may state this to the Moorish Government.

No. 347.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June* 6, 1903.

SIR H. MACLEAN has written to Mr. Forwood about a further loan of 1,500,000*l.* which the Moorish Government require, 900,000*l.* to be applied to paying off the three recent loans, which the Sultan finds inconvenient.

I was asked whether His Majesty's Government would be prepared to give any form of guarantee for the loan in case of default by the Moorish Government, but I replied that the scheme was not one with which His Majesty's Government would associate themselves.

No. 348.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 67.) *Foreign Office, June* 6, 1903.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 115 of the 20th ultimo, inclosing copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez in regard to the desire of the Moorish Government that British subjects should abstain for the present from riding or walking outside the walls of the town.

I approve the terms of Mr. MacLeod's reply to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the notice which he has issued to British subjects on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 349.

Foreign Office to Mr. F. E. Joseph.

Foreign Office, June 6, 1903.

Dear Sir,

I SUBMITTED to Lord Lansdowne the papers you left with Mr. Hopwood on the 3rd instant on the subject of the issue of a new Moorish loan.

His Lordship has desired me to thank you for your communication, but to inform you at the same time that His Majesty's Government are unable to associate themselves with the project.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

No. 350.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 290.) *Paris, June 8, 1903.*

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH the official utterances of responsible persons and the voice of the more weighty organs of the press have hitherto disclaimed any intention on the part of France of being led into the annexation of Figuig, there have not been wanting signs of dissent from this attitude among the advocates of Colonial expansion. M. Etienne, as I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship, has declared himself on the side of moderation, but some of his followers are taking an independent course, which is supported in the inclosed article form this morning's "Dépêche Coloniale."*

The writer considers that only France and Morocco are concerned in the Figuig question, and that the future tranquillity of the border should be secured by shifting the French frontier westwards to Wady Guir so as to include Figuig and the more turbulent tribes by which it is surrounded within French territory. Morocco would still have her hands full enough in keeping the peace over the reduced area remaining to her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 351.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 126.) *Tangier, June 4, 1903.*

My Lord,

ACCORDING to the information which I have received from Fez, it would appear that the Minister of War has inflicted a severe punishment on the Beni Zeroual and the Beni Mesgilda, mountain tribes who inhabit districts to the north-west of the capital. El Menebhi did not meet with any serious resistance, and his troops are said to have completely devastated the territories in which operations have taken place. This vigorous action has caused much dismay among the mountain tribes in the neighbourhood of Wazzan and Alkazar, and will probably induce the latter to cease for a time from their acts of brigandage, which have rendered of late the communications between Fez and Tangier very insecure.

The Beni Zeroual and Beni Mesgilda had not, so far as my information goes, taken any part in the rebellion fomented by the Pretender; but as their loyalty to the Sultan is always doubtful, the Minister of War considered, before undertaking his advance on Taza, that it would be prudent to render them harmless and prevent any risks of his communications with the capital being interrupted.

El Menebhi has caused me to be informed that he now proposes to advance into the Shinhaga district, and after having chastised the tribes there to proceed through the Tsul territory to Taza. I am told that he has no intention of returning to Fez to celebrate the Mussulman Feast which commences on the 9th instant.

The next few days should, therefore, afford some opportunities of judging how far and with what success the Minister of War will be enabled to carry out his programme.

I have no definite or trustworthy news as to the Pretender, nor is it known what effect the recent operations of the Minister of War will produce among his adherents.

A column, chiefly composed of mounted men and numbering some 6,000 to 7,000 men, which has been camped for some weeks at Alkazar, has now advanced into this neighbourhood; and it is hoped that its presence will re-establish tranquillity and maintain order on the caravan roads.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

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* Not printed.

No. 352.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 127. Confidential.) *Tangier, June 4, 1903.*

My Lord,

IT has been notified to me that the Moorish Government are much disturbed by the reports which have appeared in the press that the French Government contemplate sending punitive expeditions across the frontier to chastise the tribes who have recently been raiding convoys in Algerian territory. They have indirectly observed to me that this action on the part of the French authorities would very seriously affect the position of the Sultan in the eyes of his people, and that they would be quite prepared to punish any tribe who had committed improper acts as soon as the present difficulties had been successfully surmounted. They added that they conceived that the French authorities were able to prevent any marauders from crossing the frontier into Algeria, and that as punitive expeditions were therefore not necessary they would, should the intention of undertaking any be officially notified to them, appeal to the Powers to assist them in dissuading the French authorities from carrying out the projects which it was reported they had in view.

I do not regard this communication as inviting any expression of opinion on my part, though, doubtless, it was intended that I should communicate it to your Lordship. Presumably the Moorish Government will receive some official notification from the French Legation, accompanied with such explanations as will show the necessity of some preventive measures being adopted, and giving assurances as to the limits within which they will be exercised.

Should the Moorish Government, however, make a more direct appeal on the subject, I would propose to inform them unofficially that it is a question which they should discuss with the French Legation, and that the intervention of any other Power or Powers would be ill-timed and inappropriate. I could add that it was manifest that the French authorities could not be expected to allow repeated acts of pillage to pass unnoticed and unredressed, especially as there was for the moment no Moorish authority on the spot which could restrain the evildoers from their malpractices.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 353.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 128.) *Tangier, June 5, 1903.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, copy of a despatch with its inclosure, which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reporting the movements of the Pretender.

The forces which the Pretender, and his Lieutenant, the Algerian Emir, have with them do not appear to be very numerous, though it is possible that they can be swelled by recruits obtained on the march.

In a later despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, dated the 1st instant, he transmits to me some information which has been supplied to him from the camp of the Minister of War from various sources. Cid El Menebhi on the 31st ultimo was still at Albeghal, in the Beni Zeroual district, and he appeared to have no immediate intention of moving. He was possibly waiting for fresh supplies of ammunition, and Mr. Macleod states that twenty-five mule loads of cartridges were dispatched from Fez on the 1st instant under the escort of one mounted soldier. In view of the constant acts of pillage in the neighbourhood of Fez it is singular that so valuable a convoy should have been entrusted to the charge of one individual.

A body of the Pretender's horsemen was reported to have arrived at Ain Mediuna, as an advance guard of the force which is being assembled by the Algerian Emir at Tafersit.

There appears to be every intention to resist the advance of the Minister of War towards Taza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON F.O. 53/513

Inclosure 1 in No. 353.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 63.)

Fez, May 31, 1903.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Hiayna man whom I recently employed to collect news among the hill tribes north of Fez last night brought me a Tsul tribesman whom he had met in Hiayna, and who had just returned from a visit to the Pretender's camp. I had him under examination for about four hours.

According to this man's report, copy of which I beg to inclose herewith, the Pretender is now moving towards Taza, and intends to spend the Mulud Festival there.

He has taken over the contingents of frontier tribesmen brought to him by the frontier marabout Sidi Abdel Aziz (reported to be a grandson of Hj. Abdelkader-el-Assouli), and has deputed to this marabout the charge of collecting and commanding a force of mountaineer and Riff tribesmen, to oppose the Minister of War's expedition. This Sidi Abdel Aziz, according to my informant, was at Tafersit in Beni Touzin, when he last heard of him, and was expected to proceed west, shortly, through Shinhaga to the vicinity of Ain Mediuna where it is probable he will encounter Sid Menebhi's force.

The Pretender, if this information be correct, apparently means to keep the east tribes under himself as a sort of reserve, while removing from control of them a person who might become a dangerous rival to him were he to go westward, and, perhaps, be defeated severely by the Government.

The details of the inclosed report explain themselves, but I beg to note particularly the informant's statements regarding (*a*) the disposition of the tribes close to Taza (on this point I feel sure that my informant is at any rate roughly correct); (*b*) the Beni Zeroual not having yet submitted to the Minister of War; (*c*) the acquisition of guns by the Pretender and his procuring 100 tents at Melilla, the latter by common report as a gift from the Spaniards there; and (*d*) the good order the Pretender continues to maintain in a region usually the most lawless in Morocco, is in striking contrast to the present state of the loyal districts in North Morocco.

I inclose a photo. map in illustration of this despatch, and to the above-mentioned report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 353.

Report of Mohammed-ben-Mohammed.

I AM a native of Tanradart, a district on the east border of Tsul, next to Branes.

Tsul still supports the Pretender. One Kaïd of Tsul and some fifty men with him came recently to Fez. These are the only Tsul people who have had any dealings with the Court, and the house of the Kaïd referred to has been burnt and his property plundered by his fellow tribesmen. The Kaïd remains at Fez and the rest of the party have gone home. Branes are also still supporting the Pretender, but most of the western part of Ghiata has gone over to the Government.

The Ahl Tahir sept of Ghiata is divided. Twelve of them who came to Fez recently had their houses burnt.

About seventeen days ago (*i.e.*, the 13th May) I went from my home to the Pretender's camp, to see some of my kinsmen there. I remained there eight days (*i.e.*, until the 21st May). The number of his followers varied very greatly, some days there being as few as 500 to 600, but never on this occasion, as far as I could learn, more than 2,000 or so.

On the 21st May, the Pretender moved from Kasbah Iselwan to Zauia Muley Kerker, thence next day to Wad Kert (between Tafersit and Mtalsa), at which place I left him.

His following consisted of commandos from Mahaia, Beni Ignatin, Beni-ben-Yeggou, Beni Gil, besides contingents of tribes around Taza. When I left he had about 600 horsemen and some 800 to 900 men on foot.

Some time ago, I do not remember the exact date, Sidi Abdelaziz, grandson of Hj. Abdelkader-el-Assouli, with his following joined the Pretender at Kasbah Iselwan. His party camped apart and numbered some 300 to 400, but as in the Pretender's own camp the numbers varied, parties constantly arriving and departing.

The Pretender has taken over the direct command of the contingents brought in by Sidi Abdelaziz, except some 100 or 150, and has deputed the latter to collect and lead a force from contingents of the Riff and mountain tribes against the Minister of War's expedition.

The Pretender was, on the approach of Sid Menebhi's expedition, appealed to by the Beni Zeroual for assistance, as they found themselves unable to resist the Makhzen, but he feared to go in person to them and leave the contingents from the east with Sidi Abdelaziz. He therefore took over the management of the eastern tribes himself and put Sidi Abdelaziz in command of the Riff and Jebala tribes and thus gave him the task of resisting the advance of the Sultan's army.

Sidi Abdelaziz left Iselwan with this object on the 17th May, and is now at Tafersit collecting a force to oppose Menebhi, and it is expected will encounter him somewhere near Ain Mediuna.

Meanwhile the Pretender moves towards Taza, and intends to celebrate the Mulud Festival (9th June) there. Sidi Abdelaziz is expected to march from Tafersit in Beni Touzin to Beni Ouiravel, thence to Marnesa, then to Beni Wargil and Shinhaza-al-Foukia, thence to Mtiona, and then to Ain Mediuna. I reached Fez to-day from Hiayna by the Wad Leben road. According to the people in that part the Beni Zeroual had not yet sacrificed to the Minister of War, but Beni Mesgilda had done so.

No part of the Minister for War's force is just now on the way to Taza. At any rate, none of us in Tsul have heard of such an expedition, nor did I hear of any such in Hiayna on my way here, as surely we should have done had a column been on its way to Taza. Neither amongst the Tsul nor Branes is there any idea of letting such a force pass to Taza.

The country in and beyond Tsul is very quiet and orderly, and has been so ever since the Pretender's rule began.

The main cause of this is the fear the tribes have come to form of each other, by his machinations, this and not any extraordinary severity displayed by him. At any rate, I have never known him execute or mutilate criminals of any sort. Bu Hamara has six or seven cannon in his camp. He got two or three of them from Guelaya, where they were dug up. Their place of concealment was pointed out by an old woman there. One of them requires 4 lbs. of powder as its charge and is now on wheels and is drawn from place to place by mules, but the others (Guelaya cannons) are much smaller and are carried in pieces on mule-back.

The remaining cannons were found in Kasbah Jenada when it was captured. I heard, however, that the Pretender had given one or two of the above small cannons to Sidi Abdelaziz for the use of his force.

Remington cartridges in Taza cost:—originals, 50 cents each; refills, good powder, 25 cents each; refills, inferior powder, 10 cents each. All are procurable in or near Melilla.

The Pretender's following were mostly quartered in "Khaimas," but he had about 200 tents. Of these, about one-half were collected among the tribes, and I was told that the other half had been presented to him by the Spaniards at Melilla, but whether it was the Spanish authorities or the Spanish merchants who gave them I do not know.

I never spoke to Bu Hamara, I have seen him frequently, however, at a very short distance, and on one occasion, it was when he first came, I "gorred" upon him, so was alongside of him.

Formerly he was accessible to almost any one, all day long, but lately he has "afrag" just like the Sultan at his camp, comes out twice a day only, and then only sees people by appointment, who are introduced by his staff and who have particular business.

Tanradarti et Tsuli, Fez, May 30, 1903.

Inclosure 3 in No. 353.

Photo. Map.

[Not printed.]

No. 354.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 131.) *Tangier, June* 7, 1903.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 38 of the 6th instant, relative to a proposal of the Moorish Government to raise a further loan of 1,500,000*l.*

I beg leave to transmit copies of correspondence which passed on the subject between Sir H. Maclean and myself. My letter could only have reached Fez three or four days ago, but I presume the Moorish Government had, in the meantime, urged Sir H. Maclean to expedite matters. I should imagine that, in the present circumstances, there would be little likelihood of raising a loan of the amount required at so modest a rate of interest as that suggested, and it seems to me that the proposal is open to several objections. There has, I fear, been some reckless expenditure of the proceeds of the other loans, and if proper care be exercised, I do not see that the Moorish Government need apply for further advances. They have more than ample supplies of munitions, &c., and the pay of the troops and levies could be met out of ordinary revenues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 354.

Kaïd Sir H. Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Extract.) *Fez, May* 21, 1903.

I HAD a long talk with Tazzi about finances, and hope you will approve of what I told him.

The Government, as you know, are being put, for them, to enormous expenses, as every man in the expedition is being liberally paid, and they require another loan besides the Spanish one.

I told Tazzi that it would be well for him to give me a true statement of their revenues, which could be verified. That he should give me the customs revenues they had received from the different ports for the last three years, and also what they expect to receive from taxes and how they arrive at the amount of the latter. That with these facts in hand and by their agreeing to give up the revenues of certain ports, sufficient to allow for the interest being paid and a sinking fund being started, they should be able to obtain a loan at 4½ per cent., and that this loan should be put on the market so that anybody could subscribe to it. That part of this loan should be used to pay off the existing 6 per Cent. Loans and the remainder only used for legitimate Government expense.

When I was in London, Lord Rothschild told me that if I furnished him with such data to work on, he would obtain a loan in England and France at 4½ per cent.

Tazzi was pleased, and said that he would furnish me with all the above information, and that he perfectly understood the necessity of this if they wished to obtain a loan on fair interest.

If you do not approve, let me know, and I will tell the Government to apply to someone else.

Inclosure 2 in No. 354.

Sir A. Nicolson to Kaïd Sir H. Maclean.

(Extract.) *Tangier, May* 28, 1903.

I DO not wish to interfere in regard to loans, as the Government have, I think, borrowed quite sufficient. They appear to have tons of stores, arms, munitions, &c., lying at Laraiche, which seem to me to be ample for all requirements; and I should hardly think they would require more in any case for the present. I feel fairly confident that they could not now obtain a loan at 4½ per cent. interest after they have borrowed 900,000*l.* It was different when their slate was clean, and when the situation was not so troubled and uncertain as it is at present.

No. 355.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 132.) *Tangier, June* 7, 1903.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, giving some information as to the movements of the Minister of War and of the Pretender.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 355.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 66.) *Fez, June* 2, 1903.

Sir,

ACCORDING to parties of Shawia and Zemmour irregulars, who have just arrived from the camp to convey some supplies of ammunition thither, Sid Menebhi marched from Albeghal yesterday morning towards Ain Mediouna. It was expected by these men that the march would be done in one stage, so that the army would arrive there last night.

This distance, according to the location given to Ain Mediouna in the map in Mouliera's "Le Maroc inconnu," would be about 45 miles, but, according to natives who have travelled over the ground, it is under ten hours' march, say, less than 32 miles.

I doubt, however, that so long a stage as even that distance would be covered in one day, and I expect Sid Menebhi would rest yesterday at his advance post at Sahel Bu Tahir, which is about midway between Albeghal and Ain Mediouna, and reach Ain Mediouna to-day at the soonest.

According to the second hand reports from Tsul and Hiayna just received here, the Pretender has moved towards Kasbah-el-Ayun (Ayun Sidi Muluk), as if his destination were Oojdah, and the same reports allege that the Pretender's Kaïd Abderrahman, Al Jaafri, has arrived at Ain Mediouna with a considerable following. The reports gave no details however.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

P.S.—The reports made no mention either of the Algerian Emir's whereabouts.

J. M. M.

No. 356.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 118.) *Tangier, June* 12, 1903.

(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE received letters from Fez of the 8th instant which state that the mountain tribes against whom Menebhi has recently been operating are not disposed to fulfil the terms of submission, and that they have threatened an attack on the rearguard of the Government troops.

Menebhi advances, but very slowly.

There is no trustworthy information as to the Pretender's whereabouts.

(Sent to Sir M. Durand.)

No. 357.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 310. Confidential.)
Paris, June 12, 1903.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two private letters which I have received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Algiers respecting the recent attack made by the Figuigians upon the Governor-General.

Captain Newton's information puts upon the incident a very different complexion than that given by the correspondents of the press, who, according to one of these letters, were only allowed to publish such accounts of what happened as would create the impression that the affair was not nearly so serious as it had been in reality.

According to this version the Governor-General was escorted by some 1,100 men, of whom the Legionaries fought with great determination. It is stated that no less than 150 of them were killed; and these men being foreigners and without a "civil status," their disappearance can be ignored, as no questions will be asked about them.

It is perfectly intelligible, under these circumstances, that General O'Connor should have been anxious to inflict heavy punishment, without loss of time, upon the offending tribes inhabiting the oasis; and the expression "admirable dash," which seemed so inapposite an expression in the order of the day addressed by the General to his troops after the bombardment of the town of Figuig, becomes sufficiently appropriate if taken as applied to their conduct during the whole of the operations from start to finish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 357.

Consul-General Newton to Sir E. Monson.

Algiers, June 6, 1903.

Dear Sir Edmund,

I THINK I ought to let you know that it is the opinion here that the attack on the Governor-General was a got-up job. As I have absolutely no authority for denying this, I can only report it privately to you, but it is openly spoken of here as having been done in order to give the Government a handle to bombard Figuig, which, from a conversation I had with the Governor-General yesterday, I understood will probably be done shortly. He did not say so in so many words, but he certainly gave me to understand this, and said he considered "that France had been very weak and much too patient with this nest of robbers." You very probably know the real facts, but I have thought it my duty to write and tell you what is said here by the "man in the street."

Yours very truly,
(Signed) F. HAY NEWTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 357.

Consul-General Newton to Sir E. Monson.

(Private.)
Algiers, June 10, 1903.

Dear Sir Edmund,

IN continuation of my letter to you of the 6th, I then thought, as did also most people who are supposed to know, that the attack on the Governor-General near Figuig was, as I said, "got up" by the "bureaux indigènes" and the military authorities. If this was so, it evidently overshot the mark, for it appears to have been a very serious affair indeed, and the Governor-General was quite right when he eulogized the discretion of the reporters, as they only published exactly what they were authorized to do. I have to-day received a letter from Oran from my Vice-Consul there, who is generally very well informed. He says that the Governor-General was accompanied by some 700 troops, and not by the small escort, as stated, besides the two companies of the Foreign Legion, in all some 1,100 men, and that but for the dogged pluck of

the Légionnaires, who were engaged at close quarters, using the butt ends of their rifles, every one of the 700 would have been killed or taken. The Figuigians were so well concealed behind rocks, stones, &c., that they were not perceived until close by. The person who gave him this information is a military man, and he greatly blamed the General for taking the Governor where he did without first assuring himself that it was safe. The papers gave some 20 to 30 Légionnaires as having been wounded, but did not say a word about those killed, of whom, my Vice-Consul informs me, there were not less than 150. These men have no "civil status," so they have simply "disappeared," and no further questions will be asked about them.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) F. HAY NEWTON.

No. 358.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 39. Confidential.)
Madrid, June 6, 1903.

My Lord Marquess,

SINCE I wrote my despatch of the 21st May on the subject of Morocco, Spanish feeling has been deeply stirred by the collision between the French and the tribesmen near Figuig.

The prevailing belief, shared by the Spanish Government, is that the French have deliberately provoked this collision; that they mean to take and keep Figuig; and that this step will be the prelude to further aggression, especially in the Valley of the Muluya.

The Spaniards know that they are too weak to prevent such aggression, but they resent it none the less keenly, and just now their feeling against France is very strong. As I have said in former despatches, the dream of an African Empire is never absent from their minds, and the traditional connection between Spain and Morocco is never forgotten.

The consequence is that the Spaniards are now looking to us. They believe that, of the European Powers, we alone are interested in checking French encroachment, and they hope that we may recognize in time the necessity for vigilance. I think it possible that their eager desire to keep Morocco intact might even suffice to draw them into close relations with us, if such relations were desired by His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

No. 359.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 41.)
Madrid, June 6, 1903.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 39, Confidential, of this date, I have the honour to inclose copy and translation of an article which appeared in the "Epoca" of the 5th instant, commenting on the declaration made by M. Combes in the French Chamber of Deputies on the subject of the incidents at Figuig.

The "Epoca" is a Conservative evening paper, and is the semi-official organ of the present Government. It is, therefore, safe to assume that this article has been inspired and that the guarded, though somewhat suspicious, language reflects the feeling of the Government on the question.

I have, &c.
(For His Majesty's Ambassador),
(Signed) C. F. FREDERICK ADAM.

Inclosure in No. 359.

Extract from the "Epoca" of June 5, 1903.

(Translation.)

THE ATTITUDE OF FRANCE IN MOROCCO.—The statements made by M. Combes yesterday concerning the policy which France is to adopt in regard to the incidents which have arisen at Figuig are clear, explicit, and conclusive.

The Cabinet of Paris does not entertain any thought of conquest nor of a more or less temporary occupation; her action will be confined to a simple operation of police, such as is authorized more or less explicitly by the Treaty of 1845.

Officially, we do not consider that there is any fault to be found with these statements or that any amendment should be made in them; but it is possible that the opinion of the European press may not be unanimous in regard to them, and that this opinion will be based more on the recollection of the policy pursued by the neighbouring Republic on the Algerian frontier than on the declaration of the head of the French Government. We are confirmed in this belief by the fact that certain important London newspapers assert—as for instance, the "Standard"—that the annexation of of Figuig to Algeria would be a much greater evil than that caused by the bands of Moorish marauders; or, again, as the "Morning Post," that it depends on the attitude adopted by England whether the Moorish question is to enter the domain of active European politics.

Nevertheless, to-day we must be satisfied to abide by the declarations of M. Combes, in the hope that France will not have occasion to stir up a conflict, and we must bear in mind in calculating the probability of such an eventuality, what the situation of Figuig is, what the interests are which France has there, and what is the importance of the place for Morocco (or what interests France may have in bringing about a conflict, and what such a conflict would mean for Morocco).

No. 360.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 119.) *Tangier, June 16, 1903.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

MR. MACLEOD, His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reports, in a despatch dated the 12th instant, that a meeting was held on the 7th June between the tribes in the Taza and Tsul districts. It was decided at this meeting to resist the advance of the Minister of War. The Pretender, it is stated, is also expected to arrive on the 12th June at Taza.

I am informed by the Sultan that His Majesty does not see that there are any difficulties in the way of the Minister of War, and has sent him peremptory orders to hasten his advance.

(Madrid informed.)

No. 361.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 120.) *Tangier, June 16, 1903.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE received information which gives me reason to fear that Mr. Harris has been taken prisoner by marauders near here.

The village of Zeenats where Raisouli, the rebel Chief, was harbouring, was this morning attacked by the Government troops; and Harris rode out early to the place, probably to witness the proceedings. The troops captured and burned the village, and the Basha of Tangier informs me that he has not heard of any European being present. Harris' servant this evening informed me that his master had not returned home, and that a man had come in saying that Raisouli had carried him off as a prisoner.

I will telegraph further news to your Lordship to-morrow, when I have obtained fresh information, which I am taking steps to procure.

No. 362.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 121.) *Tangier, June 17, 1903.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 120 of yesterday's date, I have every hope that the captive will receive no personal injury.

I am taking all possible steps to enter into communication with Harris, and to get him set at liberty.

Active measures might endanger his life, and so I have refrained from suggesting them.

I think it possible that the tribe is holding Harris as a hostage to procure terms from the Government.

Would your Lordship kindly reassure his brother, who is Private Secretary to the Financial Secretary to the Admiralty, and tell him that I have every hope that no personal injury will be done to him? I suggest this, as it is possible alarming reports may appear in the press.

No. 363.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 122.) *Tangier, June 17, 1903.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE succeeded in communicating with Mr. Harris; he informs me that he is well treated, and hopes that his captors will set him at liberty to-night. I am taking steps which I hope will be successful in obtaining his freedom.

He requests that the Government should take no action in the matter; but I had called on Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres and the Basha of the town this morning, and informed them that until Mr. Harris be liberated no movements of troops should take place.

No. 364.

Sir A. Nicholson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 123.) *Tangier, June 18, 1903.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE received a second letter from Mr. Harris, which betrays some anxiety as to his position, and I fear that the prospects of his immediate release are not so favourable as they seemed to be yesterday.

I understand that the Chief, in whose hands he has fallen, is anxious and willing to release him, but that large numbers of the surrounding tribesmen are assembling at his village, and the more fanatical of them may overrule him. Besides this, a Lieutenant of the Pretender is expected by the tribes in a day or two.

The Shereef of Wazzan and others are doing their best to induce the tribes to liberate Mr. Harris, and I shall know the results of their efforts to-day.

Should they fail, there are no other persuasive and pacific measures to follow, and the employment of force would place the captive in a most dangerous position, even should it prove effective.

Should the negotiations which are at present going on fall through, there is no other course that I can think of but for me to send a letter to the Chief, in whose hands Mr. Harris is, to be read to the tribes, demanding the liberation of the prisoner, and conveying to them a warning that a most exemplary punishment will be inflicted on them if any injury occurs to him.

If, unfortunately, necessity for such punishment should arise, it would have to be effective and prompt, and that the Moorish authorities would be capable of inflicting it seems to me to be a matter of very grave doubt.

I would therefore submit to your Lordship's consideration the question of employing a British force, which could be supplied by the ships-of-war in the Mediterranean and the garrison at Gibraltar, for the purpose.

I appreciate the grave objections which may be raised against such a course; but, I fear that, if the tribes discover that they can with impunity seize and hold captive a well-known Englishman, the situation will become precarious as regards all Europeans.

No. 365.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicholson.

(No. 39.) *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1903.
(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 123 of to-day's date. You should use every endeavour to obtain the release of Mr. Harris. There are, however, in my opinion, great objections to employing a British force, either for the purpose of his rescue, or as a punitive measure.

No. 366.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 50.) *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1903.
(Telegraphic.) P.

A DESPATCH from Teneriffe has been published in the Paris newspaper the "Temps," announcing that the coast from Cape Bogador northwards beyond Cape Juby has been occupied by an expedition commanded by M. Lebaudy, armed with magazine rifles and quick-firing guns, and supported by several ships.

Has anything in confirmation of this report been heard by the Spanish Government?

No. 367.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 124.) *Tangier, June* 18, 1903.
(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No 119 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report that I have received letters from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez to the effect that Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi, the Minister of War, defeated some levies of local tribes at Ain Mediouna on the 11th instant.

Neither the forces of the Pretender nor those of any of his lieutenants were engaged.

Although the more serious obstacles have still to be met, the advance of the Minister for a short distance will be facilitated by this victory.

(Repeated to His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.)

No. 368.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 125.) *Tangier, June* 18, 1903.
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE received news from the Shereef of Wazzan that he has succeeded in obtaining a promise from Mr. Harris' captors that they will release him on condition that five men who are in prison in Tangier should be set free. The local authorities here consent to liberate the five prisoners, and I am asking the Shereef to see that Harris is released. I trust that all will go smoothly.

I am informed that the captive is not ill-treated and is quite well.

No. 369.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 327.) *Paris, June* 19, 1903.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Report by Colonel Stuart Wortley, Military Attaché to this Embassy, stating that a flying column crossed the Moroccan frontier in co-operation with the bombardment of Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 369.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Wortley to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 42.) *Paris, June* 19, 1903.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Secretary of War, that, in conjunction with the bombardment of Figuig, a flying column composed of one squadron Chasseurs d'Afrique, 800 Arab scouts, and a detachment of the 1st African Battalion proceeded on a reconnaissance from Ain-ben-Khelib to Oglat Moussa, in Moroccan territory with the object of cutting off the retreat of any tribes in a northern direction from Figuig. Reinforcements were sent to Ain-ben-Khelib and to Galloub to support this movement and to insure the lines of communication.

It is of interest to note this movement, as no information has as yet been received of the operations of French troops in Moroccan territory.

It is not yet stated whether this flying column has returned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. STUART WORTLEY, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 370.

Sir H. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 48.) *Madrid, June* 19, 1903.
(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 50 of yesterday respecting the reported French expedition to West Coast of Morocco, I have the honour to inform you that Minister of Foreign Affairs, whom I have just called on, has received no information on the subject.

(Repeated to Tangier.)

No. 371.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 126.) *Tangier, June* 20, 1903.
(Telegraphic.) P.

YESTERDAY morning, Muley Ahmed, Shereef of Wazzan, went to the Chiefs of tribes for the purpose of informing them that it had been decided to carry out their conditions as to exchange of prisoners. I fear some hitch must have occurred, as no news has yet been received from him. Last night I dispatched a courier with letters for Harris and Muley Ahmed, asking the latter to let me know as soon as possible if tribes were making any fresh demands, and as to how matters stood. I asked him also if he thought it would be of any avail if a ransom were offered. Messengers are afraid to go to Zeenat, and communication with the captive is becoming somewhat difficult. The mountaineers, I am told, are assembled at the locality in large numbers, and there are many bad and wild characters among them. The aspect of affairs is disquieting. Since Thursday I have heard nothing from Mr. Harris.

No. 372.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 127.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 20, 1903.*

A LETTER addressed to the foreign Representatives at Tangier has been received here from the Pretender.

He protests strongly against the action of the French at Figuig, and states that all the troubles are caused by the Sultan and his troops.

He begs an early reply to his letter, and expresses his desire to enter into friendly relations with us.

He requests our views as to the best means of re-establishing order in Morocco, and states that he is desirous of acting in harmony with us.

No. 373.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June 20, 1903.*

WHAT do you consider to be the meaning of the Pretender's letter mentioned in your telegram No. 127 of to-day? Does he desire that we should mediate between him and the Sultan, or does he hope to obtain recognition as virtual Ruler?

How do the other Representatives propose to act? It seems to me impossible that we should enter into negotiations with the Pretender.

No. 374.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 128.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 20, 1903.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 41 of to-day's date, I have the honour to report that the letter from the Pretender is, I think, an attempt to open up relations with the Foreign Diplomatic Representatives, so that they should recognize him, practically as Ruler. Of course, this is out of the question. I will obtain my colleagues' views to-morrow; but I imagine that they will leave the letter unanswered and simply transmit it to their Governments.

I have received letters from Fez to-day which give me to understand that Bu Hamara is still remaining in the Riff country and that he has not proceeded to Taza. They also state that his cause is losing ground; but the reports as to his movements which have reached me from Fez of late are of a somewhat contradictory nature, and are, therefore, rather difficult to follow.

If it be true that the Pretender's lieutenant is marching in this direction, it is possible that there will be trouble here.

No. 375.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 20, 1903.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 126 of this morning, I have the honour to report that Muley Ahmed, one of the Shereefs of Wazzan, came into Tangier from Zeenat this afternoon. He informed me that he found between 3,000 and 4,000 men from six different tribes assembled there.

They demanded the release of their fellow-tribesmen who are in gaol at Laraiche and Tangier in exchange for Mr. Harris.

The Shereef tried to alter their decision, but was unsuccessful in his endeavours.

I called on Sid Hadj Mahommed Torres when I received the above news, and requested his Excellency to release the prisoners here and to send orders for the immediate liberation of those at Laraiche.

He informed me that he was unable to do the latter on his own initiative, but that he would release those in the Tangier gaol without delay. I have sent a special courier to Fez regarding the release of the Laraiche prisoners and the others I have confined at the Consulate, pending negotiations.

Muley Ahmed is going again to Zeenat to-morrow, and I have authorized him to give my guarantee that the Laraiche prisoners will be set free.

I received a letter this evening from Mr. Harris in which he states that the news of the approach of a lieutenant of the Pretender has much excited the tribes, and adds that his position will become very critical unless an immediate exchange of prisoners be effected.

No. 376.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 22, 1903.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 129 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that I have received news from the Shereef, Muley Ahmed, that the tribes insist on the liberation of all their tribesmen who are in prison before they release Mr. Harris, and decline to accept any guarantee.

They are endeavouring to bluff me, and their demands are on the increase.

I have sent a message to Muley Ahmed asking him to inform the tribes that I am ready to abide by my former undertaking, and that I have acted very leniently, but that the authors of the outrage and the others implicated therein are known to me, and that if they press matters too far they will be unwise.

Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres has declined taking any responsibility on himself as regards the release of prisoners, &c., and I have, therefore, asked the Sultan to send him general orders to meet such requests as I may make in such matters.

Mr. Harris wrote to me yesterday evening and I received his letter this morning. He is well and in better spirits than he was before, as he has been removed from Zeenat and taken into Angera, where he will be freed from many bad and doubtful characters.

I do not think any further developments will take place, say, for a week, that is till orders are received here from Fez.

The tribes have promised Muley Ahmed that they will do no injury to Mr. Harris personally, and he is sure that they will not harm him.

No. 377.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 134.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June 13, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch, with its inclosures, which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting the movements of the force under the command of the Minister of War.

Up to the date of the reports from the camp of the Minister of War three weeks had elapsed since the latter had left Fez with the intention of reoccupying Taza, distant some 70 miles from the capital.

The Moorish Government had asserted that the intervening tribes had mostly expressed their readiness to facilitate the advance of the force of the Sultan, and I was assured that the march to Taza would be a mere military promenade, in the prosecution of which no difficulties were to be anticipated.

I had doubts at the time that the operations would proceed with smoothness and celerity, and I feared that, if the statements made by the Moorish Government were the sincere expression of their real sentiments, they had miscalculated the factors of the situation.

The early movements of the Minister of War were not very encouraging for a speedy attainment of the object of his campaign; but it was explained that it was necessary, in the first place, to subdue the mountain tribes to the north and north-west of Fez, and remove the possibility of any risk of their interrupting communications with the capital. I had not previously heard that these tribes were openly disloyal—their names have certainly not appeared in the lists with which I have been supplied of those who are adherents of the Pretender. The measures taken against them were severe, and, doubtless, for the time, staggered and cowed them. Nevertheless, these tribes appear to have recovered themselves, and, if the reports from the camp are accurate, they now decline to fulfil the terms agreed upon with the Minister of War, and even threatened the rear-guard of his column. It is possible, though I have no information on the point, that they have received encouragement from the Pretender, and may now be numbered among his adherents. If they become hostile, their attitude would be embarrassing to the Moorish Government.

Provisions appear to be scarce and dear in the camp of the Minister of War. This should not and need not be the case, but I fear the Commissariat Department is but ill-organized.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 377.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 70.)

Sir, *Fez, June* 8, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translations of letters 11 to 17, which I have just received from Menebhi's camp.

From these it will be seen that Menebhi did not move from Albeghal till the 1st instant. The Basha-es-Shergui was left there to collect the impositions under the tribes' terms of submission.

The Minister of War only reached Azib-el-Hamuni, a spot on the Warga River adjacent to Sheraga, Slas, Jaiya, and Beni Ouriagel, three hours' march from Albeghal, where he remained, detained apparently by heavy rains, till the 5th instant.

On the 4th instant the Basha-es-Shergui, with his column, joined the Minister of War, and reported that the tribes who submitted recently had refused to pay the contributions agreed upon, and had collected a force to attack him, having heard which he had retired and joined the Minister of War.

There is no mention in the letters of any intention on the Minister of War's part to compel the tribes to keep their bargain about the contributions, and the messenger who brought the letters is positive that the terms would not be exacted—just now, at any rate.

On the 5th instant the Minister of War dismissed the Zemmour contingent to their homes, having at last realized that they were more troublesome and costly than they were worth, and marched to Sok-al-Juma of Slas.

The Minister of War sent an Amin with the Zemmour to pay them when they reached their homes, as a check, I suppose, on their behaviour on the road.

The camp was pitched at Sahel Bu Taher, a spot near Hiayna, Jaiya, Mezziat, and the Shinhaga sept, called El Ghaiwa, and Kaïd Hafid-el-Chiradi's force advanced about 8 miles east, towards Ain Mediouna, where it still remains.

A report reached the Minister of War on the 6th instant that a sort of "meeting of delegates" of the tribes of Ghiata, Tsul, Branes, and Shinhaga would take place on the 7th instant at (so the message from the camp informs me) Ulad Sebbaher, on the borders of Tsul and Shinhaga and between Branes and Hiayna, to decide what action was to be taken, and thereafter a party of horsemen will be dispatched to inform him of their conclusion.

Some 25 prisoners—13 from Beni Ouriagel and 12 from Ulad Jaafra, in Hiayna—ordinary criminals merely, sent by their respective Kaïds to the Minister of War, reached here yesterday.

I beg to inclose a tracing* over the War Office map of North-western Morocco, No. 808, on which I have indicated roughly the relative positions of the tribes alluded to in this and recent despatches, as described to me by a native whom I have questioned on the subject, and which shows the movements herein reported.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 377.

Translations of Letters Nos. 11 *to* 17 *received by Vice-Consul MacLeod from Menebhi's Camp.*

No. 11.—*Sunday, May* 31, 1903.

TO-DAY the camp did not move.

The Beni Ouriagel brought in 50 pack-mules, and at 4 o'clock the Beni Zerual came in and brought 100 mules, 20 bullocks, and 25 dollars.

News came that Kaïd Hafid Chiradi, who was camped at Sahel Bu Taher, had looted Ain Mediouna, but the news was false.

No. 12.—*Monday, June* 1, 1903.

The camp moved from Albeghal three hours' march, and was pitched at Wad Warga, in Azib-el-Hamuni, between Cheraga, Slas, Jaiya, and Beni Ouriagel. The Basha-es-Shergui remained there to collect the tribute from the tribes.

No. 13.—*Tuesday, June* 2, 1903.

To-day there was peace. Thank God. It rained heavily, and the tents were half under water.

No. 14.—*Wednesday, June* 3, 1903.

To-day there was peace, and the camp remained at the same spot.

No. 15.—*Thursday, June* 4, 1903.

There was no disturbance, and much rain fell, and in the afternoon the army of the Basha-es-Shergui arrived. The Basha told the Fki Menebhi that the tribes had refused to pay the tribute, and had collected a force to attack. On hearing this the Basha-es-Shergui rejoined the Fki Menebhi.

No. 16.—*Friday, June* 5, 1903.

The Fki Menebhi sent to the Zemmour contingent and told them to depart to their own country; that they were not to go to Fez, but to proceed by the Gharb and Cheraga, and Sidi Taib-el-Wazzani would go with them till they reached their homes. He gave them four days' money, to be given to them by Taib-el-Wazzani when they arrived home. An Amin with the money went with them. At 9 in the morning the army moved from Azib-el-Hamuni, three hours' march, and camped at Sokel Juma of Slas. There two young soldiers burned the house of the Shereef Bakhali. Menebhi had them thrashed and sent away. The Shereef was loyal.

* Not printed.

No. 17.—*Saturday, June 6, 1903.*

The army moved from the Sokel Juma of Slas, four hours through the country of the Slas tribe. The Beni Mgild raided a village there. A Drisi Shereef, who lived there, caught one of them, took him to Menebhi, and told that this man and his friends were robbing his people. The Fki had the man thrashed till he bled, and sent him about his business. A few Beni Hassan also robbed the Slas and stole some cattle. The Fki had them thrashed severely and imprisoned them; they were four in number.

The camp was pitched at Sahel Bu Taher, between Hiaina, Jaiya, Mezziat, and Eghaiwa, and all the Emhallas gathered together there except that of Hafid Chiradi.

Twenty men of Jaafra, a sept of Hiayna, arrived in camp. Menebhi rebuked them, seized them, and sent them to the Basha-es-Shergui.

Price of bread—big loaf, 50 cents.

Meat there is none, nor salt butter.

The Jaiya came and sacrificed the camp, but went away and did not return. A force was sent to find them.

A Wazzani Shereef came to Menebhi and told him that the Ghiata, Tsul, Branse, and Shinhaga would meet on Sunday, the 6th June, and afterwards thirty of the Ghiata would depart to Bu Hammara.

No. 378.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 22, 1903.*

I AM informed by Kaïd Sir Harry Maclean that negotiations are proceeding between the Moorish Government and some French commercial houses for a loan, on the same terms as the former loans, for 20,000,000 fr.

The Moorish Government are not, according to the Minister of Finance, in actual need of money, but they say that it is as well to have something to fall back on, and until the advances are made no interest is paid.

The Spanish loan has not yet been concluded quite finally, but it will be so very shortly.

No. 379.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 22, 1903.*

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 40 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to state that I called on the French Minister this afternoon and told him of a curious telegram I had seen in the "Temps" regarding the landing of a French expedition on the west coast of Morocco, and asked him if he had any news.

M. Saint René Taillandier replied that he had no information on the subject, but that the promoter of the scheme, M. Lebaudy, was a person of a reckless and adventurous character, who might well have embarked on a foolish enterprise.

(Repeated to Sir M. Durand.)

No. 380.

Question asked in the House of Commons, June 23, 1903.

Sir C. Dilke,—To ask the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether his attention had been called to the facts that a British Company formerly carrying on trade at Cape Juby was constantly warned by His Majesty's Government that the territory formed portion of Morocco, that the factory of a Company formed by Lee Brothers, of

Manchester, was ultimately sold, and was now occupied by troops of the Sultan of Morocco, and that a subsequent British private expedition to the same district was treated as unlawful; and, if so, whether he had any official information showing that a private French armed expedition supported by private ships had occupied the district of Cape Juby; and, further, which of the Powers had recognized the title to the district of the Sultan; and what steps His Majesty's Government proposed to take to settle the boundaries of Morocco.

Answer.

His Majesty's Government addressed no warning of the kind mentioned to the North-West Africa Company to which the Right Honourable Baronet refers. But at the time of the occupation by them of Cape Juby, we declined to promise them material support against the tribes. The Company evacuated their station in 1895 upon the following conditions amongst others, that the Moorish Government should pay them 50,000*l.*, and that His Majesty's Government should recognize the Sultan's jurisdiction over the territory in question as far as Cape Bojador. I am not aware of any subsequent British expedition to the same district, nor have I any information as to the alleged French expedition, nor as to what Powers have recognized the Sultan's jurisdiction over the coast in question. The present is not a favourable moment for taking action in the direction suggested in the last question.

No. 381.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June 24.*)

(No. 133.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 24, 1903.*

ACCORDING to reports, dated the 21st instant, which have reached me to-day from Fez, it is stated that the Government troops, under the Minister of War, received a severe check on the 20th June in an action with the Tsul tribes.

I am informed that the Sultan's troops sustained a comparatively heavy loss.

No. 382.

Question asked in the House of Commons, June 25, 1903.

Sir C. Dilke,—To ask the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could inform the House of the conditions upon which the British factory at Cape Juby was sold to the Government of the Sultan of Morocco; and whether, in view of the stipulation inserted with the intention of preventing the territory from being alienated by the Moorish Government, he could state what view was taken by the Spanish Government, having rights in the neighbourhood, as to the private French armed expedition supported by private ships now operating in the neighbourhood; and whether inquiries would be made as to whether the Foreign Enlistment Act was being violated by enlistment in the United Kingdom of persons for that expedition.

Answer.

The Agreement signed on the 13th March, 1895, between the British and Moorish Governments respecting the purchase by Morocco of the property of the North-West Africa Company at Cape Juby, is published in the State Papers, vol. lxxxvii, p. 972, and in Hertslet's Map of Africa by Treaty. The inquiries made by His Majesty's Government lead to the belief that the reports as to the so-called French expedition have little foundation in fact, and the Spanish Government are fully aware that they have been greatly exaggerated. I am not quite sure which provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act the Right Honourable Baronet has in view, but upon the facts, so far as we are aware of them, I am inclined to think that the Act does not apply.

No. 383.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 25.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 25, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 132 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to report that I have this day received a telegram from Mr. Madden, His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mogador, reporting that a Frenchman arrived at Lanzarote in a schooner from the Mediterranean. There were quick-firing guns and arms on board.

He took a bill of health for Las Palmas and visited Cape Juby coast on his way from Lanzarote to that port, but he saw nobody and did nothing.

It appears that he tried unsuccessfully to charter a tug and another vessel.

He is said to have a crew of about eighteen men with him, and he has given out that he is engaged in provisioning ships at sea. Mr. Madden telegraphs viâ Teneriffe, and the last paragraph of his message is not quite clear.

(Repeated to Sir Mortimer Durand.)

No. 384.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 25.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 25, 1903.

CAPTURE of Mr. Harris.

I have received a letter from him this morning, written in good spirits, and saying that he has been removed from Zeenat by the Anghera people and is being very well treated. He is pleased at being away from Zeenat, as his safety there was a little uncertain.

I do not expect to receive a reply from Fez till Sunday or Monday next, and the transfer of the prisoners confined at Laraiche will take some time.

I therefore cannot expect his release for at least a week.

No. 385.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 26.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 26, 1903.

LETTERS have reached me from Fez dated the 23rd June, in which it is stated that the Minister of War reports that the Beni Ferassen and Krawa, Septs of Tsul, who repulsed his attack on the 20th instant, seem inclined to submit to the Government; but it is also reported that his rear is being threatened by two Lieutenants of the Pretender.

The Minister of War is, according to Sir H. Maclean, in a very embarrassing position, as the country in which he is conducting his operations is one of extreme difficulty, and the mountain tribes who form part of his army, and who are supposed to be loyal, are not to be trusted.

Reports, which I have however no means of verifying, are in circulation in Tangier to the effect that the Lieutenant of the Pretender is now near Tetuan, and such troops and supplies as can be gathered together have been sent there to reinforce the garrison.

(Repeated to Sir M. Durand.)

No. 386.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 26.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, June* 26, 1903.

THE Minister of Foreign Affairs, whom I have just called upon, is much troubled about French expedition to West Coast of Morocco, which, he says, is supported by the French Colonial party. He believes the French intend, by means of this expedition, to establish their power on the West Coast of Morocco. He also appears to be anxious as to what attitude we should take up.

Referring to the visit of the French squadron to Cartagena, he said this was a political demonstration, and that it was intended to make the world believe there exists an alliance between France and Spain.

No. 387.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 27.)

(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 17, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, giving some information as to the movements of the force under the Minister of War and also of the Pretender.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 387.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 72.)
Sir, *Fez, June* 12, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the following summary of a report just made to me by a messenger whom I dispatched to East Tsul district on the 9th instant to collect news:—

The Pretender celebrated the Mûlûd Feast in the open country between Kasbah Iselwan and Kasbah M'sun, and on the following day proceeded to Kasbah M'sun. He dispatched from there a body of about 500 horsemen of his eastern tribe partisans towards Tetuan under a Hiayna Shereef, one Sidi-ben-Ali Al Wazzani of Ain Khammuni, in Hiayna, and was expected to reach Taza about to-day or to-morrow so as to pass the seventh day of the Festival there.

The tribal meeting at Ulad Zbair (eastern border of Tsul) came off as expected on Sunday last. It was convened to consider letters received from the Pretender ordering resistance to be made to Sid Menebhi's advance. The meeting decided that each tribe by itself, if it could, and, if not, by support of its neighbours, would resist the Sultan's forces from Ain Mediouna eastwards, and horsemen were dispatched to appeal to the Shereef, Sidi Abel Aziz (the Algerian Emir), to come at once from Sidi Ali-ben-Dawd, in Marnisa, towards Ain Mediouna with his force and that of Abderhman Wuld Sellam Jaafri—which is, it appears, also Sidi Ali-ben-Dawd—to join it.

These two forces are thought to number about 3,000 horsemen and some 4,000 footmen at the very most, and, according to the replies which came from its leaders to Tsul, it should reach the vicinity of Ain Mediouna to-day. It has been delayed in Marnisa by some squabbling between its leaders and the Ulad-al-Bukkal Shereefs of Marnisa, which, however, has been ended.

My informant reports meeting five men at least going from Ain Mediouna eastwards, and two couriers going to Fez, who all report that Sid Menebhi has arrived at Ain Mediouna, and that there was continued fighting all yesterday between his column, the Mezziat, and the Sinhaja people of Ain Mediouna. The Mezziat, it appears, have repudiated their "settlement" with Sid Menebhi, so he has retained eighteen of them in his camp as prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 388.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June 27.*)

(No. 137.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June 18, 1903.*

ON the evening of the 16th instant, at 8 P.M., I received a telephone message from Mr. Harris' house, which is situated on the other side of Tangier Bay, to the effect that Mr. Harris had left his house early in the morning, in company of a young groom, for a village about three hours distant from here called Zeenat. I was further informed that a man had just arrived from that village and reported that Mr. Harris had been captured and was held a prisoner.

I should mention that the village of Zeenat is the residence of a noted freebooter, named Raisouli, who of late has set law and authority at defiance, and, with a band of marauders under his leadership, has been pillaging caravans and raiding villages. At the same time he has never shown any special animus against Christians.

The column which was sent from Fez some time ago to re-establish tranquillity in this district received orders to attack Zeenat on the 16th instant, and endeavour to capture Raisouli. At an early hour the column advanced on Zeenat, and finding it practically abandoned, the troops set fire to the houses and carried off what loot they could find. Raisouli himself was not taken.

Mr. Harris must have arrived near Zeenat after the above measures had been taken and after the troops had retired. The man who first brought in the news of the capture of Mr. Harris stated that on the withdrawal of the troops the inhabitants had returned to their abodes, and that messengers had been sent to all the surrounding mountain tribes to come to Zeenat, presumably with the object of attacking the Government troops in force.

On the receipt of the telephonic message from Mr. Harris' servant I sent Mr. Irwin, Interpreter of the Legation, to the Governor of the town, to request him to send out, without delay, to the Commander of the column, to ascertain whether he had heard any news of a European having been in the vicinity of Zeenat, or of any one having been attacked and taken prisoner. The reply I eventually received was in the negative.

I also procured the services of a native of Zeenat, who happened to be in Tangier, and intrusted him with a note to Mr. Harris, in which I requested the latter to inform me of what had occurred, and to let me know what were the best steps which, in his opinion, I could take in his interest. The messenger left for Zeenat in the course of the night. It seemed to me essential, in the first place, to ascertain exactly where Mr. Harris was, and what were the disposition and intentions of Raisouli towards him.

The following morning I called on the Sultan's Deputy, and requested his Excellency to invite the Governor of the town to be present. I explained to these gentlemen what had occurred, and stated that my principal object in visiting them was to impress on them the necessity of permitting no movement of troops to take place, as any advance of the military would gravely compromise the safety of Mr. Harris. They promised me that they would meet my wishes in that respect.

On my return to the Legation the man whom I had sent to Zeenat on the previous night had returned.

He stated that Mr. Harris was confined in a room, and only Raisouli and the scribe of the latter were permitted to visit him. He was, therefore, unable to deliver my letter personally, but had given it to the scribe, who had promised to hand it to Mr. Harris.

The man added that Mr. Harris appeared to be well treated; and that he had gathered that some conditions would be demanded before he was released. He also

said that the neighhouring mountain tribes were assembling in considerable force, and that more were on their way. He had heard it mentioned that a Lieutenant of the Pretender was daily expected, who, his informants stated, would be able to deal with the question of Mr. Harris, if it were not previously arranged.

I considered it advisable to utilize the services of the Head of a Riff village in the suburbs of Tangier, who is on very intimate terms with Raisouli and his people. I dispatched this man to Zeenat yesterday afternoon, with instructions to do what he could to prevail on Raisouli to release Mr. Harris; and I also engaged the good offices of Muley Ahmed, one of the Shereefs of Wazzan, who has great influence in these districts, and who sent a letter to Raisouli urging him to liberate his captive.

At about 3 P.M. yesterday afternoon I received a reply to my letter to Mr. Harris, dated Zeenat at 9 A.M., the 17th instant. The letter was as follows:—

"Please take no steps at present. Things look better this morning. We (my groom and I) were ambushed and fired at yesterday and taken up here. Raisouli is doing all he can, and I may get away to-day; but don't let the native Government move or things will go badly. However, as it is I think it will be all right. Many thanks for sending out. I shall probably have no difficulty in communicating with you, and am being well-treated. If I don't turn up to-night it might be best for Muley Ahmed Wazzani to come out, if he will, to-morrow morning."

I therefore desired Lord Cranley to visit Muley Ahmed, and ask him to kindly hold himself in readiness to proceed to Zeenat. As Muley Ahmed is a French subject I first applied to the French Minister, who cordially gave his assent to the Shereef undertaking the mission.

At 9 P.M. yesterday I received a second letter from Mr. Harris, dated 3·15 P.M. In this letter he said:—

"Would you ask Muley Ahmed Wazzani to come out early in the morning, and to come straight to Raisouli's house at Zeenat. I am all right but quite unable to get away just at present, unless things take a turn for the better. He should be here as early as possible, if he will come. I don't think there is any immediate danger, but things are not pleasant. I think Muley Ahmed could get me away."

I at once sent to Muley Ahmed to ask him to be at Zeenat early this morning. He was in the country, but mounted men were dispatched after him, and I trust he will reach Zeenat in the course of this morning.

I have so far given your Lordship the narrative of events up to this morning, and I will reserve for a subsequent despatch any further developments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 389.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June 27.*)

(No. 138.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June 19, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit translation of a letter which was addressed to one of the Arabic scribes in this Legation by the Deputy-Governor of Figuig, giving an account of the attack which was recently made on the Governor-General of Algeria and his party by the inhabitants of Zenaga.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 389.

Extract of Letter from Khalifa of Figuig, dated June 5, 1903.

(Translation.)

THE following are the events of Sunday, 31st May, 1903, in which Zenaga, and especially Figuig, with the exception of Oodgghir and Oolad Sliman, took part. On that day the Governor-General of Algeria arrived, as he had just come from France to replace his predecessor. The General of Oran came with him with four Algerian

people; they stayed at Beni Ounif, and wrote to the Basha informing him of their arrival at Foum Khanak, Zenaga. We immediately mounted at 7 A.M., and went to the Foum Khanak, and met the officer in charge of Beni Ounif, who had with him about thirty Arab Spahis. The officer and three Spahis mounted with us, and went with us to near Beni Ounif. We stayed there about half-an-hour until the above-mentioned General arrived with four others (correspondents) in a carriage. We met them and welcomed them. The Governor-General replied that there was much disorder, murder, and robbery in that part, and that order in the district was not maintained, but he said "You will see what we will do." When he had concluded they mounted their horses, and we did likewise, returning with us to the Foum-el-Khanak. They had about 100 to 150 soldiers in that place. They dismounted at the Foum-el-Khanak, and we also in face of Kasbah, Zenaga. They were looking at it with telescopes, and taking photos. Then one of the Headmen of Zenaga, Hj. Mohamed-ben-Merzok, joined us, meeting and speaking with the Governor-General, who said the same to him as he had said to the Basha about Zenaga. We then heard a great disturbance in their Kasbah, and Mohamed returned to them with four of the Basha's horsemen and myself to quiet them. We went almost up to the wall of the Kasbah, and Hj. Mohamed went in to them and told them there was no harm, and that they were merely out for a ride, and are returning to their place. They fired at him, and went out to the Christians. I fled back to the Europeans, returning with them to Teniet-el-Lihoodia. The Zenaga people went and fired on the European soldiers, they (the Zenaga) commencing; the Europeans also fired on them. The fight lasted four and a-half hours, from 9·30 to 2 P.M. All the Figuig people, with the exception of Ksout named above, took part.

The Figuig people write every day to Bu Hammara to assist them against the Makhzen and the Christians.

No. 390.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 27.)

(No. 139.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 20, 1903.

MY most recent reports from Fez do not show any great progress in the Minister of War's campaign.

There has been no collision with the forces of the Pretender or any of his Lieutenants, and such fighting as has taken place has merely been with the local tribes.

It seems that the Mezziat tribe, which had submitted to the Sultan, did not seem inclined to abide by its submission, and the Minister of War, who was encamped at Sahel Bu Tahir on the 7th instant, returned to Azib-el-Hamouni on the 8th.

The Mûlûd Festival was celebrated there on the next day, and Menebhi had an interview with the Kaïd of Mezziat, and matters were satisfactorily arranged between them, the Mezziat joining the other recently-conquered tribes in paying the fines which had been imposed on them.

Meanwhile, negotiations were being undertaken with the Sinhaja people, but these proved of no avail, and on the 11th instant the army advanced towards Ain Mediouna, and further negotiations proving fruitless, an attack was made, and Ain Mediouna and some neighbouring villages burned. In this engagement the Government forces lost 36 killed and 61 wounded, and 80 to 100 horses; and only succeeded in taking one prisoner and six heads.

Notwithstanding this, it seems as though the victory was of some importance to the Minister of War, as the Sinhaja tribe submitted next day, and the Huara-el-Hajar on the east of Ain Mediouna also came in.

A strong contingent from the lately wavering Mezziat tribe also joined Menebhi on the 12th, presumably to assist in future operations.

The defeat and submission of these local levies leaves the road clear for the Government forces eastwards to the borders of Tsul or Branes; but it is here that the really serious portion of their campaign will begin.

Mr. MacLeod's messenger reports that Sid-el-Menebhi has punished all cases of plundering with exemplary severity.

Food and forage are, it appears, now plentiful in the camp, and the army generally is in good spirits.

As regards the movements of the Pretender, I have no later news than that reported in my despatch No. 136 of the 17th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 391.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 27.)

(No. 140.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 20, 1903.

WITH reference to my previous despatch, I will beg leave to state that the Head of the Riff village, who was sent on the 17th instant to discuss matters with Raisouli, returned here in the afternoon of the following day.

He told me that he had passed the greater part of the night in conversation with Raisouli and others of the chief men as to the liberation of Mr. Harris, who was present during the conference.

After much trouble he said that he had arranged with the captors; that Mr. Harris should be permitted to leave with him at daybreak on the following day; and that no conditions were to be attached to his liberation.

The conference broke up at a late hour, and my man arranged to sleep in Mr. Harris' room so as to be ready for an early start. Shortly afterwards he was called out by the scribe of Raisouli, who informed him that the arrangement had been reconsidered and would not be carried out, and that it would be prudent on his part not to remain in Mr. Harris' company. My messenger, therefore, sought other sleeping accommodation, and in the morning asked Raisouli to allow Mr. Harris to leave with him, as had been arranged on the previous night.

Raisouli stated that, on reconsideration, it was not intended to fulfil the arrangement, and that Mr. Harris must remain for the present. My messenger then returned to Tangier. I have not as yet clearly ascertained the reason for this change of plan.

In the evening of the 18th instant a note was received from Muley Ahmed, the Shereef of Wazzan, to the effect that he had been in communication with Raisouli and the chief men, and that they made the liberation of Mr. Harris conditional on the release of some of their tribesmen who were in prison in Tangier. I sent Mr. Irwin to Hadj Mohammed Torres to request him to give orders that the tribesmen should be liberated as soon as Mr. Harris was set free. His Excellency agreed; and I accordingly informed Muley Ahmed that his terms would be complied with.

I was informed that Muley Ahmed met the tribal Chiefs on the morning of yesterday; and apparently some hitch in the negotiations must have arisen, as no communication was received from Muley Ahmed, and Mr. Harris was not released.

Last night, and again this morning, I dispatched messengers both to Muley Ahmed and to Mr. Harris, requesting to be informed as to how matters stood, and stating that I was anxious to have news as soon as possible.

Muley Ahmed arrived in Tangier during the course of the day, and told me that there were some 3,000 to 4,000 tribesmen with Raisouli at Zeenat, and that, after much discussion, he had been unable to move them from their determination not to set Mr. Harris free until their fellow-tribesmen, whose names he had on a list, were liberated from the prison at Tangier and at Laraiche. I also received a letter from Mr. Harris, of which I beg leave to inclose a copy.

The Shereef informed me that he had not seen Mr. Harris, but that he had heard that he was well treated, though closely guarded.

The Shereef was of opinion that it was eminently desirable that the liberation of Mr. Harris should be effected as speedily as possible. I arranged with the Shereef that I would obtain the release of the men who were in prison here, and would send a special courier to Fez requesting that orders be immediately sent for the liberation of the prisoners at Laraiche.

I told Muley Ahmed that he might inform Raisouli of the above, and he could add that I would guarantee that my request as to the Laraiche prisoners would be granted.

The Shereef would then demand the immediate release of Mr. Harris on these conditions and on my guarantee, and he was to leave for Zeenat to-morrow morning to endeavour to conclude the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 391.

Mr. Harris to Sir A. Nicolson.

Zeenat, June 20, 1903.

YOUR letter of 10 P.M. yesterday received, and Muley Ahmed has, I hear, got his.

I wrote to you this morning, since then things are rather worse. Letters have just arrived from the Khalifa of the Pretender saying that he (the Khalifa) was on his way to Tetuan, and giving orders for mona to be got ready for him. This has excited the people here very much. Something must be done to-day. Ransom is no good. They don't want money, but must have their prisoners. Let me have letters to-night in Arabic here that prisoners will be released, otherwise danger is increasing. They want prisoners from Laraiche. Let those at Tangier be released at once and sent to Muley Ahmed, who is just going to Tangier. If this is done and prisoners from Laraiche sent for at once I am safe, if not things are bad.

[Unsigned.]

No. 392.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 141.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 21, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter which the Pretender has written to the Diplomatic Body, and which was sent by post from Melilla to the address of the Spanish Minister.

There are some passages in the letter which are not very clear, but the intention is evidently to open relations with the foreign Representatives. My colleagues are naturally of opinion that no reply should be sent to it. The Pretender alludes to having addressed some previous communications to us, but none has ever been received.

From letters which I received from Fez yesterday, it would appear that the Pretender is still in the Riff country, and is said to be in some straits as to provisions and money. Of late the information which has been brought by messengers who were sent into the districts in rebellion has been contradictory; and it is difficult to form a clear opinion as to the real position of affairs.

The tribes in this neighbourhood are becoming excited at the news of the approaching arrival of a Lieutenant of the Pretender. The march of this officer with a force of 500 men in the direction of Tetuan was referred to by Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod in his despatch which formed the inclosure to my despatch No. 136 of the 17th instant. The tribes now assembled at Zeenat received letters from this officer yesterday ordering them to prepare provisions for himself and his troops, and I gather that he will be gladly welcomed by these mountaineers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 392.

Letter addressed by Mohammed-ben-el-Hassan to the Diplomatic Body at Tangier.

Praise be to God alone.

THERE is no strength nor power save in God, the Great, the Sublime.

God be his protector and Master, and may he in his mercy be propitious to him.

There is no God but God, and Mahommed is his Prophet. He who puts his trust in Thee, O best of created beings, him will God preserve from the vengeance of man.

To the most intelligent Chiefs of the nations appointed to govern the people of Tangier, in the name of their Governments and of the distinguished Ministers.

We are always interested in your state and in your most respected laws.

We have more than once written to you with regard to the troubles which disturb our country and which are caused by the acts committed by the insolent troops of Abd-el-Aziz, which recoil on their own heads to their discomfiture, but we have received no answer from you, and you have taken no care to respect your proximity to us.

It might be said that you listened to him in whose words and deeds no trust can be placed (this refers to the Sultan).

The French nation has erred in this manner for they violate the laws which you have established among you, and they have so demeaned themselves as to attack Figuig, which is among those tribes which have submitted to our rule. They have had no regard for the small number of its inhabitants in contrast to their own power, and they have done this solely to aid one (*i.e.* the Sultan) who has been excluded from our Government and who implores their support against us. Such an attitude cannot have the approval of reasonable persons who are possessed of dignity and judgment.

Besides, that which has happened to our subjects is not astonishing and cannot be denied. Your own Governments, either singly or collectively, have before this acted in like manner, as you are well aware. But has it ever occurred in the course of your experience that a Government has unjustly supported another against a third? No reasonable person would approve of it, and that a similar matter has ever before occurred is unknown.

To see with one's own eyes is very different from evidence on hearsay, and when one can actually witness the event further proof is unnecessary.

Perhaps your silence with regard to the conduct of the nation under discussion is a proof of the nullity of your laws which you boast of as being so unalterable, and your Governments may be in ignorance of the dissolution of authority; for it is this nation (the French) itself which prevents the re-establishment of order.

On your side you never cease from occupying yourselves with our country of Morocco, but with nations other than the Moorish; otherwise relations would have been established between us.

For this reason it is absolutely essential that you should check the acts of the nation which has lighted the fire of revolt among the tribes of Figuig who have submitted to our authority: in order that all matters at issue between us should be set at rest, and so that persons other than ourselves should have no further words to say on the matter.

We will then make laws with you and create good relations, in the manner known to those as wise and far-seeing as yourselves.

At the same time, you must come to an arrangement with Hadj Mohammed Torres for the re-establishment of order at Tangier; we have sent him orders authorizing him to negotiate with you on this matter.

You must, without fail, answer this letter, and give me information as to how we may re-establish order in accord with you.

This is what we had to inform you of.

Our order glorified in God has been given to this effect on this 15th day of Rabea, 1321 (11th June, 1903).

Send the answer to the Amin-Esh-Shadli-el-Galai, in Melilla.

(Seal of Mohammed-ben-el-Hassan.)

No. 393.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, June* 27, 1903.

TO-DAY the Foreign Minister again spoke to me about the Lebaudy expedition, which is causing him much anxiety. The French are, he affirms, presuming on our friendly attitude towards them, and he regards this expedition as a great danger.

He did not say so to me, but I believe the Spaniards are sending out a ship for the purpose of collecting information on this subject.

No. 394.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 29.)

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 29, 1903.

I HAVE received despatches from Fez, reporting that the Minister for War has come to an arrangement with the mountain tribes between his position and Taza, and that he hoped to arrive in the latter place on the 28th June.

The Lieutenants of the Pretender who were threatening Sid Menebhi's rear have only a small following, and are remaining inactive, with no support.

The news that the Pretender himself is in Oojdah is confirmed by Sid Torres.

(Repeated to Sir M. Durand.)

No. 395.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 29.)

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 29, 1903.

CAPTURE of Mr. Harris.

Yesterday evening the Sultan's orders for the release of twelve prisoners, who are to be exchanged for Mr. Harris, reached me.

I am making arrangements to effect the exchange of prisoners on Wednesday morning next, the 1st July.

A list of some forty men were sent in by the tribes to me with a request for their liberation, but I have informed them that it is impossible to entertain this demand.

I trust that the settlement will not be delayed longer than Wednesday.

No. 396.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 1.)

(No. 350.)
My Lord, *Paris, June* 30, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 42 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to state that the recent report of a filibustering expedition on the West Coast of Africa under M. Lebaudy, a French millionaire, has attracted but little attention in the French press. The arrival of the mail from the Canaries bringing a newspaper report of the movements of M. Lebaudy's yacht has confirmed the impression that there has been no attempt to establish a French settlement in the neighbourhood of Cape Juby. The inclosed extract from the "Politique Coloniale"* professes to give the key to the mystery. It states that M. Lebaudy represents a group of shareholders of the Franco-Algerian Railway Company, whose line, which has now been prolonged to Ain Sefra and Duveyrier, was taken over by the State some two years ago. He is said to be engaged in devising the plan of a Trans-Saharian Railway from the southern terminus of the above line to Timbuktoo or some other point on the northern bend of the Niger. He undertakes further to construct a telegraph line and a certain number of forts along the future course of the railway, and to establish a steam-boat service on the Niger between Koulikoro and Say.

In return for these services the Company is to be restored to its rights over the Oran Railway, which it engages to prolong at once some 100 kilometres to the south, and to be given the preference in carrying out the further extension to the Niger. It receives in addition certain land concessions in the districts to be traversee by the railway.

I inclose also a reprint of an article from a Las Palmas newspaper concerning M. Lebaudy's movements.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

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* Not printed.

No. 397.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 2.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, July* 2, 1903.

WITH reference to Sir M. Durand's telegram No. 52.

M. Lebaudy's relatives here aver that they know nothing about his proceedings or intentions, and M. Delcassé says that he is, in consequence, unable to get much information about him.

Nine of the fourteen men with him are sailors, and his yacht is a vessel of between sixty and seventy tons.

M. Delcassé says that the expedition is an insane act, which may possibly end very badly for all concerned, and that he considers M. Lebaudy to be more or less mad.

No. 398.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 3.)

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 3, 1903.

CAPTURE of Mr. Harris.

His release was promised to me yesterday but obstacles have occurred on the part of some of the tribes.

The prisoners who are to be exchanged for him are all ready here, and I have consented to release four others, making sixteen in all, in order to hasten the matter to a conclusion.

The obstacles mentioned above will, I hope, be shortly removed, and though I hesitate to fix a date for his release, definitely, I trust to procure his liberation by Monday, the 7th July.

He is in good health.

No. 399.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 3.)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 3, 1903.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mogador, Mr. Madden, telegraphs, *vid* Teneriffe, dated the 1st instant, that some Moors, who had arrived from Cape Juby by steamer, state that five Christians, said to be French, and a boat were captured about 6 hours journey south of Cape Juby.

(Repeated to Sir M. Durand.)

No. 400.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 3, 1903.

YOUR Excellency's telegram of the 27th ultimo, No. 52.

Lebaudy Expedition.

It appears from such information as we have been able to obtain that the expedition has no particular importance.

The Spanish Ambassador gave me to understand that his Government will send a ship to make inquiries on the spot. We have no ship suitable for such service at Gibraltar, but as it is no doubt desirable to watch what happens, instructions will be sent to one of His Majesty's ships, which is due at Teneriffe in August, on her way home from West Africa, to visit the vicinity of Cape Juby.

No. 401.

Sir. A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 142. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June 24, 1903.*

IN the course of conversation with the French Minister, I mentioned that I had noticed a telegram in the "Temps," despatched from Teneriffe, stating that an expedition under M. Lebaudy had landed on the Moorish coast, between Capes Bojador and Juby, armed with repeating rifles and quick-firing guns; and I asked him if he had any information on the subject.

M. Saint Réné Taillandier did not evince much surprise at this report, but stated that he had not yet looked at the papers, and that he himself had heard nothing in regard to the matter. He added that M. Lebaudy was an adventurous man with large means, and that it was possible he would embark on rash enterprises. At the same time he doubted if he had committed himself to an undertaking of the nature I had described.

I observed that it seemed to me that as the report was so detailed there was possibly some truth in it, though much exaggeration. Some years ago, I mentioned, a filibustering expedition of a more modest character had made an attempt on the Sus coast, but we had been enabled to give timely warning to the Moorish Government of its approach, and the enterprise had ended in failure, and in the punishment of those who had taken part in it.

The conversation then terminated; and as the question is one that could not usefully be discussed locally, I do not propose to refer to it again with my French colleague. I have made inquiries privately at Mogador as to whether any reports have reached that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 402.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 143.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June 25, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report that recent despatches from Fez do not give a very favourable account of the operations under the Minister of War since the defeat inflicted on the Sinhaja tribe on the 11th instant.

It appears that Sid Menebhi remained for a week (11th–17th June) at Ain Mediouna, and on the 18th instant marched to Sifsafa in Hiayna, where he pitched his camp in a flat tract of country on the eastern bank of the Wad Libben at its confluence with the Wad-al-Mhar, close to the site of Muley Amrani's camp, which was captured by the Pretender on the 22nd December, 1902.

The army rested a day here, and at sunrise on the 20th instant attacked the Beni Ferassan and Krawa septs of the Tsul tribe.

The enemy had retired into the hills about 5 miles to the east-north-east of the camp, and the Government troops advanced along the left bank of the Wad-al-Mhar across the intervening plain, destroying the crops and burning the deserted villages.

The army was formed into four divisions, with the Hiayna contingent being on the extreme right and the others on the left and centre; the artillery formed a fourth division in rear of the main body, and the Minister of War and his staff followed.

When the infantry and cavalry had reached the end of the plain the artillery opened fire on the villages occupied by the enemy on the hillsides, and did not cease fire till the fighting ended.

In front of the largest is a deep dried-up watercourse or spruit which the army had to cross. They succeeded in reaching the ground intervening between the village and the spruit, but were beaten back to the place where the attack began.

The Minister of War rallied the troops, and a second attack was then made. The right division only succeeded in getting up to the spruit, and were beaten back there and retired to camp in disorder. The centre and left crossed the spruit, and in the ground between it and the villages the fighting was severe.

An attempt was made to get round the Government forces by the Wad-al-Mhar and cut them off, but Sid Menebhi defeated it by moving to his left and opening fire on the enemy.

But though the attempt to cut them off was unsuccessful, it had the effect of causing the army to fall back.

Menebhi endeavoured to rally them, but was unable to do so, and they retreated to the camp in disorder, their retreat being covered by the artillery of the fourth division who kept the enemy from pursuing them.

The firing commenced at 9 A.M. and lasted till 1·30 when the retreat began, the army reaching camp about two hours later.

No details have yet been received as to the losses on either side, but Mr. Macleod's informant, who was present both at this affair and at that of Ain Mediouna, states that the losses in the battle of the 21st were far the more severe.

It is not known whether any of the Pretender's troops were engaged, but it is supposed that the Tsul were assisted by some Branes.

There is no talk of abandoning the camp, and the troops are in good humour and hopeful, but it cannot be denied that the affair may prove a serious check to the Minister of War's advance.

It is possible that the loss sustained by the enemy may induce them to follow the example of the Sinhaja and of the Augusht sept of their own tribe and submit to the Government; but the repulse of the Sultan's forces may also have the effect of raising the discontented and lately defeated tribes in their rear against them.

I inclose a plan of the battle prepared by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 403.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 144.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June 27, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 140 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to report that the tribes who are holding Mr. Harris captive declined to accept my guarantee that the prisoners at Laraiche would be liberated, and they refused to free Mr. Harris until their fellow tribesmen at Tangier and Laraiche were actually handed over to them. They did not doubt my good faith, but considered that the Moorish Government might not act fairly, and might deceive me.

In view of these circumstances, there was no other course but to await the receipt of the orders from the Court for the release of the prisoners.

During this past week Mr. Harris has been taken into Anghera, where he is in more comfortable quarters than at Zeenat. He is, moreover, removed from many bad characters, whose presence at Zeenat was continually a source of danger to him. He has written to me several times, stating to me that he is being exceedingly well treated, and that he is in excellent health.

I have been given to understand that the tribes now expect that a very large number of prisoners should be liberated. This is a demand which cannot well be granted, and it is an exorbitant one; moreover, were the tribes to imagine that all their requests would be at once met, their terms would continue to rise. I have therefore stated that I intend to limit myself to obtaining the release of the prisoners whose names were originally given to me, and who are twelve in number, and I have intimated to the tribes that it would be unwise on their part to push their demands too far.

It is quite possible that when I am in a position to hand over the original twelve, and the tribes are aware that I am disinclined to grant further concessions, they will desist from their present exaggerated demands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

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* Not printed.

No. 404.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July 4.*)

(No. 145.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June 27, 1903.*

I HAVE received reports from Fez by a special courier, who left on the evening of the 23rd instant, from which it appears that the position of the Minister of War is, though still difficult, slightly more favourable than might have been expected after his repulse of the 20th instant.

It appears that the direction of operations on the side of the Tsul was in the hands of one of the Pretender's lieutenants, Uld-el-Khayat.

At a meeting which was held in Tsul on the 21st instant, the tribe could not come to an agreement, whether to continue the fighting or to submit. Two septs came into the Minister of War's camp, but Sid Menebhi refused to accept their submission. On the 22nd instant, the Pretender's lieutenant, mentioned above, came in under safe conduct and was well received by Menebhi. The nature of the arrangement arrived at between them has not yet transpired, nor has any answer been returned to the offers of submission which have been made by various septs of Tsul. It is stated that only a minority of the tribe are in favour of submission, and the Government are evidently hesitating as to whether or not to accept it.

News has been received that two other lieutenants of the Pretender, the Algerian Ameer, Sidi Abd-el-Aziz, and Abd-er-Rahman-uld-Sellam-el-Jaafri, with troops from the Riff, are threatening Sid Menebhi's rear, and have arrived on the borders of Sinhaja. The lately subdued Sinhaja, who had offered a contingent to Menebhi, have been detailed to oppose this force, and have been promised such reinforcements as may prove necessary for the purpose.

The army was reinforced by 2,000 men from Fez on the 22nd instant, together with supplies of arms and ammunition and provisions.

It is evident that the Government are hesitating between the two courses open to them—*i.e.*, whether to accept the submission of the Tsul and continue the advance towards Taza, or whether to turn against the Algerian and Abd-er-Rahman-el-Jaafri.

The situation of Menebhi will be embarrassing, whichever course be adopted. He cannot be certain of the loyalty of many of the mountain contingents in his army; indeed, it is asserted that the Hiayna contingent on the 20th instant fired on the Government troops, and the country in which he will have to operate is one of great difficulty, and should he leave the Sinhaja (whose loyalty is more than doubtful) to oppose the Pretender's forces in his rear and advance towards Taza, he will run a great risk of having his communications cut to the west, while he would have against him Branes, Meknessa, and very probably Ghiata to the north, east, and south.

Kaïd Sir H. Maclean has been informed by Sid Menebhi that there is much anti-Christian feeling among his men, and he thinks that, should they return victorious from their campaign against the Pretender, fresh complications may arise owing to their attempting to dictate terms to the Sultan.

As regards the whereabouts of the Pretender, reports are so conflicting that it is impossible to say with any certainty where he is.

Reports from Tetuan are somewhat disquieting, as it is stated that a lieutenant of the Pretender is close to that place. I have no means of verifying this report, but Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres has sent all available reinforcements from Tangier to Tetuan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 405.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July 4.*)

(No. 44.)
My Lord, *Madrid, June 27, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the news of the Lebaudy expedition has been received here with much anxiety. The nation was beginning to feel a little easier in its mind with regard to Figig and the French advance from the eastward,

but this affair has given rise to fresh excitement. The general feeling seems to be that France is taking advantage of the friendly attitude of England—if, indeed, the two Powers are not acting in collusion. Even the Government shows some suspicion on this subject; and it is evident that no one in Spain much likes to see France and England on good terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

No. 406.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July 4.*)

(No. 356.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 3, 1903.*

I ASKED M. Delcassé yesterday whether he had any information as to the Lebaudy expedition, and his Excellency said that, so far, he had not succeeded in learning very much.

Lebaudy had relatives in Paris, but they all professed to have heard nothing of his projects, and affirmed that in his recent correspondence he had given no inkling of his intention to land in West Africa.

The "yacht" on which he had reached the coast was a small vessel of between 60 and 70 tons, with a crew of nine men. He had five other companions; but what could a man expect to do in such a country with fourteen men?

On the whole, M. Delcassé had come to the conclusion that the man was mad; or, at any rate, insane on the subject of notoriety. His aim was probably to attract attention; but if that was the case he might well have to pay a heavy penalty for his vanity, as the probabilities were that he and his companions would come to harm at the hands of the savage inhabitants of the region in which he landed. If it were not for this danger the incident would be purely comic.

From M. Delcassé's language and manner, and from all that is known of the circumstances, I cannot believe that the French Government can feel any other sentiment but that of annoyance at this idiotic proceeding of M. Lebaudy, which, as M. Delcassé says, can evoke nothing but ridicule. At any rate, the apprehensions of the Spanish Minister of Foregin Affairs, as reported by Sir M. Durand, appear to be quite unnecessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 407.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July 6.*)

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 6, 1903.*

THE release of Mr. Harris was effected to-day, and he is now safe and well in Tangier.

No. 408.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July 7.*)

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 7, 1903.*

I AM informed by the French Minister that a Moorish force of some 1,000 men leaves in a French steamer for Nemours to-morrow. They are at present encamped here.

The force is intended to operate against the Pretender, who is in the Oojdah district. They will march through French territory to the nearest point on Moorish frontier to Oojdah.

No. 409.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July 7, 1903.*

I CONGRATULATE you on the success of your efforts to secure the release of Mr. Harris.

No. 410.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 336. Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 7, 1903.*

THE French Ambassador mentioned to me some days before the President's arrival that it would be agreeable to M. Delcassé to meet me during his stay in London, and to discuss with me some of the points with regard to which his Excellency and I had at various times had conversations.

M. Delcassé called upon me this morning, and we exchanged ideas at some length in regard to these questions.

After expressing the pleasure which it gave me to have this opportunity of learning his views at first hand, I said that, as he was aware, I had on several occasions discussed with M. Cambon the position of our two countries in Newfoundland, Morocco, Siam, the New Hebrides, and other parts of the world. Those discussions had, up to the present, not led to any definite results. They had, however, I thought, been useful in clearing the ground, and they certainly had led me to the conclusion that the points at issue between the two Governments were few in number, and by no means incapable of adjustment.

M. Delcassé expressed his entire agreement, and added that this view now prevailed in the French Chamber, which was inclined to take a reasonable, not to say friendly, line in regard to all such questions. As for the French Government, they had ceased to desire a wide extension of their Colonial possessions, and were intent, not upon adding to them, but upon consolidating them, and removing all sources of future trouble within them and upon their borders.

I replied that His Majesty's Government were influenced by very similar sentiments, and that I certainly thought the opportunity was in every way propitious for a frank exchange of opinions between the two Governments.

Speaking of Newfoundland, which I had mentioned first, M. Delcassé said that the question of the supply of bait, so indispensable to the French fishermen, was that which had most importance for France; the considerations which had to be taken into account by the French Government were, however, largely of a sentimental character. There was a feeling that the fish, which had of late deserted the French Shore, might some day return there, and any surrender of French rights would be resented unless it could be shown that sufficient compensation had been secured.

I replied that we also had to take into account sentimental considerations, and particularly those which had weight with our own Colonies, but that in the case of Newfoundland, it was by no means only a case of sentiment. I had had opportunities of discussing the Newfoundland question with the Colonial Office and also with Representatives of the Colonial Government, and I had found that the main obstacle to a settlement, so far as the Colonial Government was concerned, was the existence of the French system of bounties, which rendered it possible for the French fishermen, and particularly those belonging to Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, to compete with those of Newfoundland on terms absolutely ruinous to the latter. The Newfoundland people, on their side, were masters of the situation so far as the supply of bait was concerned, and naturally felt that this was a trump card which they were entitled to use to the best effect. I had discussed with M. Cambon the possibility of a settlement on the basis of the withdrawal of the French from the "French Shore," with compensation to the persons engaged in the fishing industry, while the French fishermen would receive facilities for obtaining a free supply of bait on the Newfoundland coast. M. Cambon had suggested that France was entitled to territorial compensation as well as to compensation in money, and although I was surprised at this demand, I had not altogether excluded the idea. I had, however, told M. Cambon distinctly that there could be no question of giving up the Gambia for which his Excellency had asked by way of territorial compensation. There might, however, be other quarters in which a concession might perhaps be made to France, but it seemed to me that it was for the French Government rather than for us to make suggestions of this kind.

M. Delcassé observed that the bounties were a matter of domestic concern to the French Government, and that it would be difficult for them to give way on this point.

I said that I admitted the difficulty, but that I thought it should not be beyond the powers of the French Government to adjust the incidence of the bounties in such a manner as to prevent their giving so great an advantage to the local fishermen. I felt sure that unless something were done in regard to the bounties, it would be impossible for us to move the Colonial Government.

M. Delcassé here "changed the venue" by observing that the possibility of coming to an understanding as to the Newfoundland question really depended upon our attitude with regard to French interests in Morocco. If we could come to terms as to that country, all other difficulties would disappear or become comparatively easy to deal with. He begged me to understand that the French Government had no desire to get rid of the Sultan or to annex his country. They wished, on the contrary, to maintain the Sultan's rule. Such a system was much more convenient than French administration, pure and simple. He had often wished that they had still a Bey at Algiers. Nor, again, had the French Government any desire to force the pace ("brusquer les choses"),

They had shown this by their moderation in dealing with the tribes on the Algerian frontier. The conduct of these had, over and over again, been such as to afford a sufficient excuse for advancing the French frontier had the French Government desired to do so; but he had given his word that this was not to be done, and the pledge had been scrupulously respected. The Sultan had even gone the length of proposing to them that they should occupy Ujda, and that they should assist His Highness at other points, but these overtures had been persistently declined. It was, however, obvious that the authority of the Sultan was waning rapidly, and that it was insufficient to maintain order in the country, and the French Government could not regard with indifference the prevalence of chronic disorder in Morocco, or admit that it was the business of any other Power but France to undertake the task of regenerating the country. In these circumstances, what they desired was a reasonable assurance that their policy would not be obstructed by Great Britain.

I said that we had shown by our conduct during the last two years that we had no desire to call in question the right of the French Government to take measures for the pacification of the Franco-Moorish border, and we had readily accepted the assurances of the French Government that the operations in which they had lately been engaged were to be of a strictly punitive character, nor did I think it likely that this country would ever take a leading part in the pacification of the interior of Morocco, should there be a collapse of the Sultan's authority, followed by a condition of confusion and anarchy.

I added that I was glad to have this opportunity of correcting what I could not help believing to be a mistaken impression, which the French Government had formed as to supposed attempts on our part to interfere in the internal affairs of Morocco. I was aware from what M. Cambon said that some suspicion had been engendered in the minds of the French Government by the Sultan's selection of Sir Harry Maclean as his Military Adviser and by the employment of a certain number of Englishmen in his service. The Sultan, no doubt alarmed by French activity on the Algerian frontier, had, not unnaturally, turned to us for assistance, and had frequently sought our advice. That which we had given to him had, I believed, been of the soundest description, and there was nothing in it to which the French Government could take exception. We had urged His Highness to keep his prisons in better order, to give reasonable facilities for trade, and to avoid extravagance, and when he had been obliged to borrow money we had recommended him to apply not to any one Power, but to the three Powers most interested in keeping him on his legs.

On the other hand, we could not be indifferent to the fate of Morocco. We were, in the first place, largely interested in its Mediterranean seaboard, and particularly in Tangier and the neighbouring coast. Besides this, I was bound to tell him that it would be impossible for us to make any arrangement affecting the balance of power in Morocco without first ascertaining how far such an arrangement would provide fairly for the interests of and be acceptable to the Spanish Government. We were on good terms with them, and had been freely consulted by them. Spain, on account of her proximity, and owing to the fact that she had possessions in several parts of Morocco, was, I said, naturally susceptible in regard to the Moorish question. In the third place, it would be

impossible for us to agree to any settlement which might have an injurious effect on British commerce or British enterprise in that part of Africa, and it would, therefore, be necessary for us to show our people that we should, in any circumstances, retain equality of opportunity in those regions.

M. Delcassé said unhesitatingly that he felt sure of being able to satisfy us completely on these three points; he recognized that it would be impossible for us to allow another Power to establish itself at Tangier, and the neutralization of that part of the seaboard could be provided for. With regard to Spain, it would have to be a part of the bargain that a satisfactory compromise was arranged with that country, which the French Government did not desire to ignore. It was, indeed, the policy of the French Government to remain well with Spain. As for the open door, he undertook that there should be no difficulty whatever in regard to that.

The conversation then turned to Siam, and M. Delcassé observed that the position of France and Great Britain had virtually been determined by the Agreement of 1886, which involved the recognition of the claims of France in the valley of the Mekong, and of Great Britain in the Malay Peninsula.

I reminded M. Delcassé that Lord Salisbury had expressly guarded himself against this interpretation of the Agreement.

His Excellency said, with a laugh, that he was familiar with the passage to which I referred. There was, however, no resisting the conclusion that the two Powers, when they guaranteed the centre of Siam, had by implication admitted that they were free to deal with the external portions of the kingdom. We had, he thought, shown by our conduct in Kelantan that we considered ourselves at liberty to do what we pleased in the Peninsula.

I took the opportunity of contradicting the statement that Kelantan had been occupied by a British force; as for the valley of the Mekong, we had Treaty rights which the Franco-Siamese draft Treaty seemed to me to ignore.

M. Delcassé said that there was no desire to encroach upon our right to most-favoured-nation treatment. All that the French Government had asked for was that, if railways were to be constructed in those regions, and the Siamese could not construct them themselves, France, as the adjoining Power, should have a preference.

I said that I had no reason to suppose that British capital was likely to be forthcoming for railway construction in the Mekong Valley, and that we had no desire to obstruct French railway enterprise in that part of the world. But most-favoured-nation treatment in respect of commerce was a different thing from most-favoured-nation treatment in respect of railway construction, and, so far as commerce was concerned, we should certainly expect the door to be kept open.

M. Delcassé again expressed his entire agreement.

We then spoke for a few moments of French and British interests in the New Hebrides, and I reminded M. Delcassé of the proposal for the establishment of a Commission, &c., made on the 29th October, 1901, by His Majesty's Government, which proposal had led to the French counter-proposal of the 9th April, 1902, to which we had taken exception. Since then we had not been able to advance the matter.

I asked M. Delcassé whether he would tell me what his ideas were as to the best way out of the difficulty. M. Étienne had, I observed, proposed a partition of the islands. I feared, however, that it would not be easy to give effect to this proposal, which would probably be objected to by the Australian Colonies.

M. Delcassé replied that he would gladly consider favourably any solution of the difficulty which His Majesty's Government might desire to recommend. If we could but come to terms about Morocco, the New Hebrides question could, he felt certain, be settled with the utmost ease.

With regard to Sokoto, M. Delcassé said that while he fully admitted that, according to the letter of the Convention of the 14th June, 1898, we were entitled to the territory comprised within the arc of the 100-mile circle of which Sokoto was the centre, the French Government were, in his opinion, equitably entitled to a revision of the arrangement, which had been arrived at in ignorance of the local conditions, and which compelled French convoys, when proceeding from the French possessions on the Niger to those in the neighbourhood of Lake Tchad, to follow a circuitous and waterless route.

I said that the country within the arc was now absolutely ours, and that if we agreed to a revision of the frontier, or to the concession of a way-leave in this region, we should certainly expect in return a substantial concession somewhere else. I added, however, that I was personally in favour of a comprehensive settlement between the two Governments, and that possibly a concession at this point might form an element in a general settlement.

In the event of such a settlement being arrived at, we should also have to take stock of the situation in Egypt. No one, I supposed, for a moment believed that we were likely to retire from that country, and I learned with pleasure from Lord Cromer that the French Representatives in Egypt were on excellent terms with ours; but I was under the impression that it might still be possible for France, if she chose, to give us trouble in matters of detail, and we should certainly have to consider this point if a general settlement were to be attempted.

M. Delcassé replied that he was entirely in favour of a comprehensive settlement, and that the Egyptian question formed part of the larger African question, which could, he felt sure, be disposed of satisfactorily if only we could come to an agreement as to the position of France and Morocco.

The only other subject mentioned during the conversation which I have recorded was that of the treatment of British firms in the French Congo. I endeavoured to impress upon M. Delcassé the importance of an amicable settlement of the cases of Messrs. Holt and others, and I dwelt upon the influence of the commercial element in the British House of Commons and the mischief which was created by the constant complaints which we had received as to the treatment of these firms.

M. Delcassé replied that whenever these gentlemen had come to Paris they had apparently been well content with the explanations which they had received. I said that they had, no doubt, been treated with great courtesy by the French officials, and that what they complained of was rather the arbitrary action of the French local Tribunals, which appeared to me to have dealt them very hard measure.

M. Delcassé answered good humouredly that it was extremely difficult to moderate the ardour of the Colonial Courts, and that we had probably experienced similar difficulties in dealing with ours. He promised me, however, to bear in mind what I had said.

Throughout our conversation M. Delcassé spoke apparently with the utmost sincerity, and he did not attempt to disguise from me the immense importance which the French Government attached to obtaining from us a recognition of the predominance which they desired to obtain in Morocco. The impression which he evidently desired to leave upon my mind was that, in order to secure our acquiescence, they would, in regard to Morocco itself, accept the conditions upon which we should probably desire to insist, whilst they would at other points go very far indeed to comply with our requirements.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 411.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 9.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, July* 9, 1903.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 332 of yesterday, I have the honour to report that, according to the French newspapers, the object of the Moorish force, which proceeds to Oojdah through French territory, is to reinstate the "Amel" of Oojdah, and to hold in check the Pretender at his encampment at Sidi-Aissa.

No. 412.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 10, 1903.

I HAVE received a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, dated the 5th July, reporting that the Minister of War was within easy distance of Taza, and that it was confidently expected that he would enter it without opposition. The tribes, on the communications of the Minister of War, are said to be giving trouble, and the Pretender is stated to be advancing on Taza from Oojdah.

The authorities at Tetuan are considerably alarmed owing to a reported approach of a Lieutenant of the Pretender, and have made urgent requests for reinforcements from here, but there are very few, if any, available.

(Sent to Madrid.)

No. 413.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 73. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 10, 1903.

THE Spanish Ambassador called here to-day and stated that his Government continued to feel a certain anxiety about the Lebaudy expedition.

It appears that, in addition to the yacht of which we have heard, a steamer named the "Frasquita" was employed. This vessel had arrived in the Canary Islands with her papers out of order, some of them being irregular and others false, and her Commander was being prosecuted in consequence.

A small boat had landed on the coast of the mainland of Morocco, and five men who had disembarked had been captured by some tribes.

The expedition had, consequently, had no great success at present, but it was being persisted in, and it was known to the Spanish Government that designs for an establishment on this part of the coast had been formerly entertained at Paris; they therefore thought that the matter still required watching.

It was explained to the Duc de Mandas that the gun-boat which His Majesty's Government had arranged should visit that part of the coast would probably not be on the spot for some weeks to come.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 414.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 11.)

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 11, 1903.

I AM informed by the Spanish Minister here that the Spanish Government have sent a man-of-war to Tetuan to remove their Consul and such of their subjects as may wish to leave the town.

Reinforcements, consisting of a force of 800 cavalry, have quitted Fez to carry provisions and supplies to the Minister of War and to reopen communications between the camp and the capital.

(Madrid informed.)

No. 415.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 146.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 3, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-el-Baida reporting on disturbances which have arisen in the Sus district.

These disturbances seem to be of a purely local nature, and not in any way connected with the movement in favour of the Pretender.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 415.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 45.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, June* 29, 1903.

MR. VICE-CONSUL MADDEN informs me, in a private letter dated the 24th instant, received here this morning, that disturbances have arisen in several Sus provinces. They appear to be tribal quarrels, the people fighting amongst themselves in Ras-el-Wad Shtooka and Gesema seriously.

Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot, in a private letter dated Saffi, the 5th instant, says: "Sus is in a terrible state of anarchy; a number of Sheikhs appointed by Kaïd Anfloos and Kaïd Gilooly have had their castles demolished and the Sheikhs themselves have had to take refuge, some in Tiznitz, but others have been killed."

It is not necessary to conclude from the above reports that there is a rebellion in Sus against the Sultan's authority. The tribes have furnished contingents to the Sultan's army at present engaged in the operations under Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi.

These kind of disturbances are always occurring in the Sus provinces, and in this particular instance they appear to be caused by the people objecting to individual Sheikhs recently appointed.

At the same time there is no doubt that the unsettled state of affairs in the northern and eastern portions of the Empire, together with the propaganda among the people of distributing pamphlets and rumours, must sooner or later affect the tribes in Sus and elsewhere.

It is necessary to take into consideration we are nearing the critical period of the year in Morocco. In the south the grain harvest is already gathered, and it is making rapid progress in the centre of the country. When no crops are in the ground and no ploughing can be done there is a period of idleness during which the people have nothing to do but quarrel, and unless the Moorish Government can exercise a fairly strong restraining power, I fear the disturbances will shortly become pretty general.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 416.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 147.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 4, 1903.

I HAVE received despatches from Mr. MacLeod, at Fez, reporting no advance on part of the Minister of War up to the 29th instant.

The Beni Ferassen, Krawan and Beni Mjdul, septs of Tsul, who had inflicted the check on Sid Menebhi on the 20th June, reported in my despatch No. 143 of the 25th ultimo, came in on the 21st and 22nd instants, and submitted to the Minister of War; the former sept supplying a contingent of some fifty men to the Government army.

The Branes tribe seems to have been assuming a somewhat threatening attitude, but whether in conjunction with the Pretender's lieutenants who are in North Sinhaja is not certain.

On the 25th instant it is reported that Sid Menebhi dispatched the Hiayna contingents and some part of his own cavalry to Ain Mediouna. Their actual destination is not accurately known, but it is probable that they have been dispatched there to watch the course of events in Sinhaja.

Sid Menebhi has been very active in putting down pillage and highway robbery in the vicinity of the camp, but it is evident that the continued presence of the troops in Hiayna is causing discontent in that tribe.

The French Minister informed me the other day that he had received a telegram from the Algerian Government stating that Oojdah and the neighbouring district had reverted to the cause of the Pretender, who was encamped with a considerable following within a very short distance of the above-mentioned town.

This news has probably reached the Minister of War, and may in some measure account for his remaining at his present position until he hears what the future movements of the Pretender are likely to be.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 417.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 148.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 4, 1903.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 144 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report that on the 28th ultimo I received from the Court letters for the Sultan's Deputy here, instructing him to place at my disposal the twelve prisoners whose release had been demanded by the tribes, and also giving his Excellency general orders to meet any requests which I might make to him for the surrender of any more prisoners or for any other measures which might facilitate the liberation of Mr. Harris.

The Moorish Ministers made some difficulty as to conceding the terms laid down by the tribes, considering that such concessions would create a very dangerous precedent, but the Sultan overrode these objections, and with great promptitude issued the orders which I had solicited.

I therefore took measures to have at my immediate disposal the twelve prisoners in question, and requested the Shereef of Wazzan to inform the tribes that as soon as Mr. Harris was set at liberty the twelve men would be also freed. Muley Ahmed carried out this mission, but the tribes raised objections, and supplied him with a list of forty or fifty men whom they desired to include in the gaol delivery. I asked Muley Ahmed to tell the tribes that I could not possibly entertain so preposterous a demand, and I repeated the warning which I had formerly given that it would be unwise on their part to push their demands too far. Muley Ahmed returned from his visit to the tribes, and said they had desisted from their exacting demands, and would be content with the release of four additional men, whose names he gave me and who were in prison at Laraiche. If this request were granted he was assured that Mr. Harris would be at once liberated. In these circumstances I agreed to this additional request, and took the necessary steps. I was then given to understand that I might expect Mr. Harris on the 1st or 2nd instant. These hopes were not realized, and I gathered that some of the Anghera tribe were desirous of importing into the matter of the release of Mr. Harris a perfectly extraneous question regarding their right to appoint a Governor of their own, a subject with which I had no possible concern. At the same time I received a letter from Mr. Harris stating that as the communications between the Shereef of Wazzan and the tribes had been simply verbal, some doubts apparently existed in the minds of the latter as to the numbers of the prisoners who were to be released, and the time at which they would be set free.

I do not think that the Chiefs could have been under any misapprehension on these points, as I had given Muley Ahmed written statements in Arabic as to the conditions of release and all necessary particulars. Still, as the native mind is an exceedingly suspicious one, I wrote a letter in Arabic to Mr. Harris, which I authorized him to communicate to the tribes, setting out in detail the conditions on which Muley Ahmed and they had agreed, and adding that I was surprised that the liberation had not been earlier effected.

Mr. Harris intimated in his letter to me that he was under some apprehension lest if the negotiations fell through or were unduly protracted the tribes might transfer him to the lieutenant of the Pretender, who is somewhere near Tetuan, and who is apparently in constant communication with the mountain tribes.

The Chief who had special charge of him, a certain Duaz of Anghera, was, he said, treating him most kindly, and had when at Zeenat undoubtedly saved him on more than one occasion from very harsh treatment. This man, who is very influential among his tribesmen, was not present at the capture of Mr. Harris, and had nothing to do with it, and the latter suggested that if I could authorize him to convey to Duaz some expressions of appreciation on my part of his kindly action that it would be of great service to him. I felt no hesitation in complying with this request.

My Arabic letter to Mr. Harris should have reached him last night, and I hear this morning that the Shereef of Wazzan has gone out to meet the tribes at a place some two hours from Tangier. This circumstance gives me some hope that the termination of this regrettable incident is approaching a satisfactory conclusion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 418*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 150.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 7, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mogador regarding the capture of five Europeans, said to be French, at Taferont, near Cape Juby.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 418*.

Vice-Consul Madden to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 21.)
Sir, *Mogador, July* 1, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 20 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Moors who went from here last week with the vessel chartered to take provisions to Cape Juby returned to-day and state that five Christians, said to be French, who landed in a boat from a vessel at a place called Taferont, about half a day's journey from Cape Juby, were captured by Arabs with their boat.

It appears that efforts were made to ransom the captives by, they say, a payment of 500 dollars and a rifle each, but the Arabs refused to give them up, though it would appear that some of them desired to make the exchange offered.

The Kaïds of the district then tried to obtain possession of the captives for delivery to the Makhzen, but were unable to do so, and they remain with the Arabs.

The vessel then went to Cape Juby, where the Moorish report says she saluted like a frigate, the Moorish flag was hoisted, and the salute returned. A party of them landed and said they were passengers and wanted fresh provisions, knowing Cape Juby to be a Moorish port. The local officials seem to have held a council as to whether they should arrest the visitors, but came to the conclusion that they had no instructions to do so. After visiting the place and taking in some provisions the party returned to the vessel, being escorted half way by the Moors.

It is not thought here that the captives are in any danger in their present unenviable position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARCHIBALD M. MADDEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 418*.

Vice-Consul Madden to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Mogador, July* 2, 1903.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to report further that the Moors state that the five European prisoners near Cape Juby refused to disclose their nationality, but report has it that they are French.

It would appear also that the Arabs themselves wish to hand over the captives to the Makhzen, and thereby to have the credit of doing so. A courier from Cape Juby had already left for Mogador before the steamer arrived there to report the affair, and it is said to ask if the "Et Turki" steamer would be sent for the captives, or whether they should be sent up overland.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

No. 418.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 149.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 6, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting that the Minister for War has advanced to within 25 miles of Taza.

It is reported that there is a meeting of tribes on the north-west of his position, but they are undecided whether or not to resist his advance.

The utmost efforts are being employed by the Government to keep the Minister of War supplied with reinforcements.

The Spanish Minister informs me that he received this morning a report from the Governor of Chaffarinas Islands, stating that the Pretender was at Oojdah on the 3rd instant collecting men and supplies for the purpose of resisting the advance of the column of the Minister of War.

In case Sid Menebhi had already taken Taza before the advent of the Pretender's forces, the latter intended to lay siege to him in that town, and to cut off his communications with Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 418.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 89.)
Sir, *Fez, July* 2, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to news I have received from a messenger I dispatched to Sid Menebhi's camp on the 28th ultimo, Sid Menebhi marched from Ras-el-Wad Mehruta on the 30th ultimo to Sok-el-Tlata Tabuabam in Hiayna, and thence yesterday to Hajra Kabla of Dsul. This spot is on the border of Dsul and the Ahl Tahir sept of Ghiata, and about, I should say, 20 to 25 miles from Taza, and at the foot of the hill called Akba-beni-Magara.

The southern districts of Dsul are reported to be now entirely in submission to the Government, and to have been trading freely with Sid Menebhi's camp. There is, however, no reliable news as to what, if anything, has recently happened in Taza, nor as to the disposition of the Ahl Tahir sept of Ghiata, who now alone remain between the Minister of War and Taza.

I have not been able to ascertain whether the prisoners recently returned to the camp were men in custody at Taza or merely some soldiers captured in the fight with the Beni Ferassen of Dsul on the 20th June.

The Pretender is reported to have sent letters to the Branes people exhorting them not to be afraid of Sid Menebhi's expedition, and to resist it strongly, and stating that having now accomplished his objects in Oojdah district, he will be able to support them very soon.

It is also reported that a Shereef of Ulad Sidi Sheikh (no name mentioned), an emissary of the Sultan's in Beni Iznaten, has either disappeared or been made prisoner by the Pretender, and that the latter has come to terms with Kaïd Uld Bashir Messaud, the Sultan's Kaïd of Beni Iznaten. It is reported further that a gathering of Sinhaja, Reddo, Branes Gueznaia, and North Tsul tribesmen is assembled on Wad Huder, about 10 miles or so north-west of Sid Menebhi's present position, but is undecided whether or not to attempt to resist him.

The Pretender's lieutenants lately in Marnia are stated to have burned several villages in Mtiwa-el-Lota and Mtiwa-el-Jebal.

The camp remaining at Seboo Bridge has been almost depleted of soldiers and tribesmen to reinforce Sid Menebhi's expedition, their places as Afrag (guards of the Sultan's tent) being taken nightly by Makhaznia of various sorts from the Palace. Between 100 and 200 tribesmen in prison here (ordinary bad characters) have been released, clothed, and sent to Sid Menebhi's camp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 419.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 151.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July 7, 1903.*

YESTERDAY afternoon Muley Ahmed, one of the Shereefs of Wazzan, arrived in the vicinity of Mr. Harris' house in charge of the latter, and accompanied by a body of Anghera tribesmen. Muley Ahmed telephoned to me that if I would send out the fifteen prisoners who were at the Consulate, the exchange would be at once effected, and Mr. Harris be set at liberty. No time was lost in meeting this request, and Mr. Harris was freed.

He called upon me in the evening, and gave me an account of his experiences during his three weeks' captivity.

It is evident that for the first week, when Mr. Harris was at Zeenat, surrounded by several thousand wild tribesmen, his life was at times in considerable danger; and that it was not until the Anghera Chieftain Duaz obtained possession of him by threats and persuasion that he was in security. Duaz, as I mentioned in a previous despatch, was in nowise concerned in his capture, and Mr. Harris was eventually handed over to his keeping only on his giving an undertaking that he would not set the captive at liberty until the prisoners in the hands of the Moorish authorities had been released. Once in the charge of Duaz, Mr. Harris was subjected to no ill-treatment, was allowed a certain amount of liberty, and received such attention and comforts as the humble means of the tribesmen permitted them to offer.

During the retention of Mr. Harris in Anghera pressure was continually being brought to bear on Duaz by the other tribes not to free him until all the prisoners, numbering some fifty people, were released; but when Duaz had ascertained that this request would not be granted, he eventually came to terms with Muley Ahmed, and contented himself with the fifteen men of various tribes who were yesterday set at liberty.

The action of Duaz throughout appears to have been creditable, and it is not improbable that his refusal to fall in with the exacting demands of the other tribes may lead to future difficulties between them. That, however, is a question which they can settle among themselves.

I should like to bring to your Lordship's notice the valuable services which have been rendered by Muley Ahmed. He has willingly put himself to great inconvenience in the discharge of a difficult task which, for a personage in his position, was a specially delicate one. I should be glad to convey to him your Lordship's appreciation of the zeal he has shown on behalf of a British subject.

The unfortunate incident as far as Mr. Harris is concerned is closed; but the fact remains that the immunity which Europeans had hitherto enjoyed in this district no longer exists. The tribesmen have seen that the capture of a European enables them to impose terms and enforce compliance; and until their misdeeds are punished, and they have been made to understand that they cannot commit them with impunity, safe circulation for Europeans will be restricted to a radius of an hour or two from Tangier. This condition of affairs will be irksome and intolerable; and it is unfortunate that there appears to be no immediate prospect of a satisfactory solution. I propose to explain to the Moorish Government that they should punish the disorderly tribes and re-establish security in the neighbourhood, but I confess that I anticipate no results from this step, as the Government have no adequate or efficient force at their disposal which is capable of asserting their authority.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 420.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 145.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 12, 1903.*

NEWS from Fez has just reached me to the effect that the Minister of War entered Taza on the 7th July, having previously defeated the tribes who opposed his advance.

The Sultan requested me to make the news as public as possible, and I have consequently informed the newspaper correspondents and others.

(Sent to Sir M. Durand.)

No. 421.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr de Bunsen.

(No. 351.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 15, 1903.*

THE French Ambassador told me to-day that the French President had been much pleased with his reception in this country, and that which he had met with on his return to Paris showed that the French people appreciated the good-will which had been shown him in London, and approved of the friendly relations which had been created between the two nations.

We then spoke of my conversation with M. Delcassé, recorded in my despatch No. 336, Very Confidential, of the 7th instant.

M. Cambon asked me whether I had any suggestions to make as to the manner in which the discussion might be most usefully pursued. In his view, the whole question was dominated by that of Morocco.

I said that M. Delcassé had allowed me to see that this was so, but that I did not think we could discuss the question of Morocco except in connection with other matters of interest to both Governments.

M. Cambon suggested that a summary of the French views as to Morocco might, to begin with, be prepared for my private information.

I said that I saw no objection to this, but that the discussion would inevitably extend beyond Morocco. As to Morocco, I repeated what I had said to M. Delcassé. M. Cambon observed that it would be out of the question to make any arrangement, "à l'insu de l'Espagne." He thought, however, that Spain might be rather difficult to deal with when we came to examine the details of the project.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 422.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 85.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 15, 1903.*

I HAVE received with satisfaction your despatch No. 151 of the 7th instant, reporting the release of Mr. Harris.

Your proceedings in the matter, which have had such a successful issue, are entirely approved, and I concur in your proposal to convey to Muley Ahmed, Shereef of Wazzan, in the name of His Majesty's Government, a message expressing their appreciation of the zeal he has shown on behalf of a British subject, and of the valuable services rendered by him in connection with this incident.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 423.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 17.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 17, 1903.

I AM informed by M. Saint-René Taillandier that the Sultan's authority has been re-established in Oojdah, and that the officials placed there by the Pretender have been compelled to leave the town.

This event should seriously embarass the Pretender, being combined with the occupation of Taza by the Minister of War.

No. 424.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 153.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 10, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 146 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, reporting that quiet has now been restored in the Sus provinces. This tranquillity appears to have been established at the cost of the Government authority.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 424.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 49.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, July* 6, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 45 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report that, according to my information, the provinces of Sus are now free from disturbances. I gather that Government Sheikhs having been driven away, the tribes appointed their own Sheikhs, and have agreed among themselves to keep the peace.

I am further informed, but I would not at present vouch for the accuracy of the report, that the tribes agreed to be independent of the Makhzen.

In the meantime, the caravan routes are all open to traffic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 425.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 154.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 11, 1903.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informs me that reports from the army state that the Minister of War has continued his advance on Taza without meeting with any further direct opposition. He arrived at Meknessa-el-Tahtana on the morning of the 5th instant, and encamped there with the greater part of his army, sending an advance guard of some tribal contingents on towards Taza. This latter force encamped within 2 miles of the town.

The Meknessa tribe have submitted to Sid Menebhi, and have received arms and presents from him, and as there is now no hostile force between the Minister of War and Taza, it was expected that he would enter that city without opposition on the 6th instant.

The tribes of Branes and Ghiata are still hostile to the Government, and the camp is subject to continual sniping.

The Hiayna tribe, whose territory lies between Sid Menebhi's position and Fez, are scarcely to be trusted, and they have been pillaging all caravans and travellers journeying through their country.

To obviate this state of things, the Minister of War refused to allow persons to return to Fez from the camp except in a caravan which he collected and put under the charge of an escort of Beni Mgild tribesmen. This caravan left the camp on the 4th instant, and arrived in Fez on the 5th. They state that they were subjected to continuous firing on the route, losing six men of the escort and a large amount of baggage.

Food and forage were extremely scarce in the camp, and convoys with provisions, specie, and ammunition, which had hitherto been camped at Sboo Bridge on account of the insecurity of the roads, have now been forwarded under the charge of a strong escort.

Reports are current in the camp and in Fez that the Pretender has left Oojdah, and is advancing towards Taza; these reports are corroborated by news from the Spanish possessions on the coast.

I inclose a map, made by Mr. MacLeod, illustrating the position of the Government troops.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 426.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 155.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 11, 1903.

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship by telegraph on the 22nd ultimo that the Moorish Government were negotiating for a fresh loan for 20,000,000 fr. with some French houses. I have been hitherto unable to ascertain definitely what stage the negotiations have reached, but I am told, on fairly good authority, that the terms are practically settled, and that the undertakers are now endeavouring to find the funds in France. It is said that the interest is to be at 6 per cent., and that the loan is to be repaid within thirty-two years. I have no trustworthy information as to when the repayments are to commence or as to the amount of the instalments.

When this loan is concluded, the Moorish Government will have contracted debts to the amount of 1,700,000*l.*, and the service of this debt will amount to 102,000*l.* per annum, leaving out of account the repayments of capital. This interest is to be guaranteed on the customs revenues, which in favourable years are estimated to produce 450,000*l.*

Competent authorities assure me that this year, owing to well-known circumstances, it would not be prudent to estimate that the customs revenues would afford more than 300,000*l.*, and, though the full charges of the loans will not be felt this year, the customs revenues are already pledged to a certain extent to meet other liabilities. Within my personal knowledge, bills payable this year have been given on the Customs to the amount of 70,000*l.*, and I should not be surprised if there were others of equal, if not larger, amounts.

Extraordinary expenditure is likely to continue for some months to come, and the ordinary expenses of the Palace and Administration have also to be met. It seems, therefore, inevitable that the Moorish Government, with no revenue coming in from internal taxation, will have to draw largely on the Spanish and the new French loans, the proceeds of the other two loans having been already expended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

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* Not printed.

No. 427.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 156.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 12, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting that the Minister of War entered Taza on the 7th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 427.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 94.)
Sir, *Fez, July 9, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to letters just received by the Sultan, the Minister of War entered Taza on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 7th instant.

A "feu de joie" in honour of the event has just been fired by the battery at the Palace.

My assistant, Mr. Hastings, with others, was at the Court when the foregoing news arrived, and he informs me that the Sultan stated that the entry into Taza had been effected after several days' fighting with the tribes north of the town, presumably Branes and Ghiata, of whom many heads and prisoners had been taken.

These were the only particulars Mr. Hastings heard, and I have had no report yet from my correspondent in the camp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 428.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 23.)

No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 23, 1903.*

NEWS has reached me from Fez that the Sultan is leaving the capital for Taza. His Majesty has been urgently requested to take this step by the Minister of War, who considers that the presence of the Sultan will have a good effect on the tribes in that district, who, although severely handled by the Government forces, do not seem to have been reduced to complete subjection.

During the past few days the Government troops have attacked and defeated some of the tribes in the neighbourhood of Tangier.

I believe that these operations are to be continued, as, in order to insure permanent tranquillity, the punishment must be thoroughly effective.

No. 429.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 148.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 23, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 155 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that news has reached me that the contract for the new French Loan will be signed very shortly.

Sid Tazzi, the Moorish Minister of Finance, states that a portion of the proceeds will be utilized in repaying the Spanish Loan.

No. 430.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 149.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 24, 1903.*

I AM informed by the Spanish Minister that a telegram has been received from Melilla, informing him that one or two important tribes in the Riff country have submitted to the Commandant of the Government troops who were sent to the north-east provinces of Morocco, viâ Algeria.

According to M. de Cologan's news, the Pretender was wandering about attended by but a small following.

No. 431.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Madrid, July 17, 1903.*

I REFERRED in my despatch No. 44 of the 27th June to the anxiety caused here by the news of the Lebaudy expedition.

In spite of the reassuring information received from Paris, this anxiety has not sensibly decreased. Spaniards do not believe that the expedition could have been undertaken without the knowledge and consent of the French Government, and I doubt whether anything will make them believe it. They think that the French are trying to put Morocco between a pair of nut-crackers.

But their main anxiety with regard to Morocco is for the Muluya Valley. They say it is an easy route into the heart of the country, and that the main French advance when it comes will certainly be on this line.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

No. 432.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 53. Confidential)
My Lord, *Madrid, July 21, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy and translation of certain remarks on foreign affairs made by Señor Moret in the Chamber of Deputies.

On the 17th instant Señor Silvela, the Prime Minister, replied to the remarks of Señor Moret and other Opposition speakers. With regard to foreign policy, his speech was of some importance, and I have the honour to inclose a translation of it. Your Lordship will see that Señor Silvela spoke strongly about the bonds of union between Spain and France, so strongly that one Spanish newspaper, the "Imparcial," assumed the conclusion of a Franco-Spanish alliance; but I believe Señor Silvela's remarks must be regarded as primarily an attempt to cover himself by a cloud of words against the attacks of the Opposition. He commits himself to no definite statement of fact, and neither the press nor the public have paid much attention to what he said. I have seen no comment upon it except that of the "Imparcial," and the statement of a Republican newspaper that such an alliance, if made, would probably lead to another Trafalgar.

Nevertheless, Señor Silvela's remarks are significant as an indication of his personal views. Two years ago he openly advocated in a magazine article the formation of a French alliance. At that time the proposal was met by a chorus of disapproval, and when he came into power last December Señor Silvela was careful to disclaim any intentions of the kind; but his inclinations have always been towards France, and as he is the leader of the Conservative party, his apparent reversion to his former proposal is a matter of considerable importance.

The speech seems to me to be a second "ballon d'essai." The first, his magazine article, was, as I have said, a failure. My despatch No. 74 of the 7th September, 1901, explained the situation at that time. Now Señor Silvela seems to have tried something of the same kind again, and though his Ministry fell the same night, he may at any time return to power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

Inclosure 1 in No. 432.

Señor Moret's Remarks on Spanish Foreign Policy in Chamber of Deputies.

ON the 7th instant, during the debate in the Chamber of Deputies, Señor Moret, one of the leading men in the Liberal Opposition, and Minister of the Interior in Señor Sagasta's last Administration, in the course of a speech discussing the proposed reply to the Royal Message opening the present Cortes, made some remarks on foreign affairs, of which the "Imparcial" of the next day gives the following summary:—

"With regard to international questions, the Message refers to the cordiality of our relations with all other countries; but in spite of this, the King of England passed along our shores and landed at Gibraltar, without stopping in Spain, and the President of the French Republic likewise did not condescend to come and salute us on the occasion of his recent visit to Algeria.

"On the other hand, since then, during the King's journey to Cartagena, the French squadron came there, and notwithstanding the presence of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Marine, the French squadron was allowed to make a pretended attack upon Cartegena within our territorial waters.

"Should another squadron act in the same way without leave on the coast of Spain, we shall have no right to complain."

[Here the Prime Minister, Señor Silvela, interupted the Speaker, and denied the accuracy of his statements.]

Señor Moret: "It has been so asserted in the press."
Señor Silvela: "The Honourable gentleman cannot produce a single text."
Señor Moret: "There are several managers of newspapers here; I appeal to their evidence."

Continuing his speech, Señor Moret said:—

"We are passing through a critical time, especially on account of the position of Gibraltar, surrounded as it is by our territory. This circumstance may prove a danger for us in the event of a European conflagration.

"It is time that the country should learn that the question of Gibraltar affects the integrity of our territory, since while we have been sleeping on the brink of the precipice, other nations have made a complete study of it.

"Mark it well, Spain is not weak, in spite of the smallness of her army and her fleet; since, owing to her geographical position, which is of the utmost importance on the day of conflict, when that day comes, all the nations interested in the Mediterranean problem will be seeking her alliance, and before it arrives, we must have decided which alliance will be most valuable to us."

[The Speaker then went on to deal with the question of the religious Orders.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 432.

Señor Silvela's Reply to Señor Moret on Spanish Foreign Policy.

ON the 17th July, at the end of his speech in the Chamber of Deputies, summing up the debate on the reply to the King's Message, Señor Silvela, after declaring that the proposal for the construction of a fleet, although it would be presented to the Cortes for consideration, would not be included in the Estimates for either 1904 or 1905, went on to deal with Spanish foreign policy, and spoke as follows:—

"It has been stated in this place that nothing could be done with regard to the creation of a fleet before we knew who was to be our ally; a question which has never yet been put, in any country I have ever heard of, in regard to the proposal to create means of defence.

"We are bound to establish and create the fleet, which is indispeneable for the requirements of our defence, within the limits of our financial powers, without having to bind ourselves to any preliminary alliance in order to carry out our plan.

"What, then, are the aims of the foreign policy of the present Government? Who can fail to know them, seeing that they are those of a truly national Spanish foreign policy?

"We are not moved by any ambition or aspiration, either immediate or remote, to intervene in the great questions of European policy. But there is one question from which we cannot turn away our attention, namely, the African question, in which it is most important to us that no settlement should be come to without our participation, and, in order to prepare for that participation, we must possess military and naval forces.

"We must, of course, maintain friendship and alliance with all nations of the world, since our interests do not clash with those of any one of them, but who can fail to see that a close bond of union links us to our neighbour, the French Republic, and that the unity of our interests, and of our aspirations for the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco for as long a time as it can be practically kept up, leads us to maintain with the French nation, who are our brothers by race, and bound to us as well by every bond of interest and expediency, the closest friendship, the most absolute union of interests, and the most complete harmony of thought.

"Such are the aims of our policy; such are the aims of the policy of every Spanish Government (worthy of the name); but we must maintain, first and foremost, the principle of our neutrality, the principle of the cordiality of our relations with all nations who treat us in the same manner; and, in order to maintain that principle, in order to avoid being left out of the discussion of such questions as may directly interest us, it is absolutely indispensable that we should not neglect to foster, preserve, and keep up our naval forces because we cannot refuse to admit absolute facts."

No. 433.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 158.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 16, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit a despatch, with its inclosures, which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, giving an account of the operations of the army of the Minister of War which led to the capture of Taza on the 7th instant.

The fall of this place will, in all probability, produce a considerable impression in the districts in its neighbourhood, and should go far towards weakening the cause of the Pretender. Some little time must elapse before the success of the Minister of War has been appreciated by the general public in the country, as the people are a little incredulous in regard to Government victories until the matter is placed beyond dispute. If the Minister of War is able to complete his success by thoroughly subduing the doubtful tribes in the vicinity of Taza and by firmly re-establishing the authority of the Sultan, the rebellious spirits in the Riff and elsewhere will, doubtless, be more inclined to make their submission.

It is doubtful whether the Sultan will himself proceed to Taza. I understand that the Minister of War is anxious that he should do so; but His Majesty and his other Ministers have apparently doubts whether it would be prudent to leave Fez.

The Moorish troops who were disembarked at Nemours were, so I gather from my French colleague, immediately transferred to Moorish territory, and were to advance as rapidly as possible towards Oojdah. Should the Pretender be compelled to abandon that place also he would find himself in an embarrassing position, as the Riff country would probably not maintain its adhesion to what would be regarded as a losing cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 433.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 95.)

Sir, *Fez, July* 11, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to send herewith a Report by messenger, Omar Bernusi, giving details of events at Taza up to the 8th instant, sketch plan of Taza and its environs, to illustrate the foregoing Reports. The course of events seems to have been substantially as follows:—

On the 28th June the N. Tsul finally declined to join the camp or submit. On the 29th June some fifty Ghiata came into camp, took gifts of money, and went away. Neither they nor their friends gave any assistance then or later to the army.

On the 30th June the army at last moved from Sifsafa of Ras-el-Wad Mehruta and encamped at Hajla Kahla of Tsul, and next afternoon the adjacent sept of Tsul submitted. On the 2nd July the army marched to Gada-el-Hamra of Tsul and adjacent to Branes, where some fighting occurred in which ten soldiers were killed. On the 3rd July the Branes sept nearest the camp submitted.

On the 4th July the army moved to Meknessa Siflia (called indifferently Meknessa Tahtania, or Tehtia), being pillaged in the rear meanwhile by tribesmen from Tsul, and having a number of people, presumably camp followers, killed. The Taifa, a sept of south-east Branes next the camp, submitted on the army's arrival. About 9 P.M. on the 4th July the camp was attacked on all sides by Tsul, Branes, and Ghiata tribesmen. The insurgents were, after a fight lasting till daybreak, repulsed and eight heads taken, the army losing only three men and a number of horses and mules killed.

On the 5th July the Taifa villages were burned as a punishment, presumably for their bad faith in taking part in the attack on the camp, without loss to the army. On the 6th July the Shf., Mohammed Drisi-by-Zarhoni, brought in various septs of Branes to the camp, except the important one of Beni Bu Yula, and their submission was accepted. The Hawara (Arabs of Kasbah Msun) and Meknessa Fokania also submitted.

In the forenoon the Ghiata and a Kaïd, Hj. Amur-el-Kalush, with three guns and a few horsemen sent by the Pretender, reconnoitred the camp and thereafter retired to the environs of Taza.

During the night of the 6th–7th July some 200 Meknessa men, in agreement with Sid Menebhi, entered Taza ostensibly to join their fellow-tribesmen there in defending it. At dawn all the Meknessa inside the town attacked its Ghiata defenders from within and without. While this was in progress Sid Menebhi arrived with the army about half a-mile north of the town and after bombarding it for an hour or so, and the two nearest gates being opened by the Meknessa, sent the Harraba and some other infantry regiments to the assault. The attack was entirely successful.

The Pretender's Kaïd, Hj. Dahman, who had on the previous day sent the Pretender's Ghiati wife and other women of his to the hills, now with other defenders fled through the south gates, and with the Ghiata outside the walls drew off to the mountains south and west of Taza, leaving the place to be sacked by the troops. The particulars of what followed are given fully in Inclosure 2. Of the losses on either side in the capture, one cannot form a reliable estimate. On the army's part I should not think that the killed and the wounded reached 100, if indeed as many. Thirty-five heads only of insurgents taken over all the fighting from the 4th–7th July have been sent to Fez and exposed as usual. No prisoners have been brought here, but it is currently reported that about seventy-seven are in custody at the camp.

The insurgent tribes, it will be observed, made only one united effort to attack the camp and the loss of only eight of their number appears to have been enough to make them retire.

The Pretender's sole attempt to reinforce the insurgents was the sending of a Kaïd and fifty horsemen. The Pretender's guns referred to were, I should think, probably the two old ones left in Taza. On the Government's part it will be noticed that no attempt was made during any of the fighting to cut off the retreat of the insurgents, and at Taza, in particular, they were allowed freely to run out at one end of the town while the troops entered at the other.

On the afternoon of the 8th instant Kaïd Dris-beni-Aish and the Basha Esh-Shergui with about 1,000 horsemen left for Fez, and arrived safely yesterday morning. It is generally believed that they have come for the purpose of escorting the Sultan to Taza within the next ten days.

The news of the capture of Taza has made an excellent impression hereabouts, as no doubt it will in other parts of the country also. At the same time, however, the nominal character of many of the submissions of tribal septs, and their readiness to break faith (in a general way only the septs next the army for the time being appear to have submitted) will be observed.

I beg to inclose herewith a map tracing, showing as far as I can ascertain them the (nominally) "submitted" and the non-submitted districts from Taza neighbourhood west to Fez.

It will be seen that about 50 miles of rough hilly country, always more or less lawless, flanked by ranges of high mountains, and for the most part only nominally subdued just now, exist between Fez and Taza, so that unless those tribes are thoroughly cowed frequent robberies of convoys and the like are to be expected.

In view, however, of their disunion and want of common authority it would not seem probable that they will be able to do more than this.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 433.

Report by Omar Bernusi.

I LEFT Fez on the 4th July and slept at Laghaulen-Nabi Giin, near Ulad-Selim, Hiaya. Next day I reached Kasbah Bouzian, and on the 6th July arrived at Ulad Sbair, in Tsul, a short distance, but the roads were so unsafe one could only travel slowly and with "satat." Thence I reached Menebhi's camp on Tuesday the 7th instant shortly after midday. The camp was pitched on the north side of the town on the plain between the roads from Bab-er-Reh and Bab-Juma to Meknessa Tahtania at the foot of the steep ascent by which the walls are reached. The distance from the outskirts of the camp to the walls was about 400 yards, and the intervening space mostly olive groves and fruit gardens. On Sunday afternoon, the 5th July, the army was at Wad-el-Hader, Meknessa Tahtania, where it was attacked by Tsul, Branes and Ghiata, and Meknessa Fokania, and the firing continued all that night. I do not know how many were killed on either side. On the 6th instant, in the morning, the army attacked and burned a large number of villages of Branes to the north of Meknessa Tahtania. They made no great resistance. On the night of the 6th July some 200 Meknessa horse and foot, in secret agreement with Sid Menebhi, went into Taza, ostensibly to join their fellow tribesmen in defending the town. During the night of the 6th–7th July the army moved close up to Taza, and at dawn on the 7th began a bombardment, while those Meknessa persuaded their fellow tribesmen to attack the Ghiata who were inside and close to the town on the west, east, and south. Those Ghiata had followed the army up to Meknessa Tahtania, and had returned before it to Taza after the burning of the Branes villages. Thereafter in the early forenoon, Sid Menebhi sent forward the Harraba regiment to assault the town and the tribal contingents behind them. The Ghiata retired on all sides, but not until many soldiers and others were killed. The soldiers sacked the Mellah and looted and burned the Kaiseria and the shops of the market. The houses of the town general were not burnt, but the doors were broken in and the houses looted. Many Jews and Moslems were killed, wounded, and stripped of their clothes, and many taken prisoners to the camp by soldiers. Menebhi entered the town just behind the assaulting party and quietened the people, giving them quarter. Thereafter he went outside, directed the pitching of the camp inside and outside the walls, and had his own tents pitched in an open space inside the walls near Bab Juma.

In the afternoon proclamation was made that prisoners of all ages and both sexes were to be given up by the soldiers at the rate of 15 dollars for an adult and 5 dollars for a child, payable by the Makhzen.

The soldiers then brought in all such prisoners, but in the event only 3 dollars per adult and 1½ dollars per child were paid. Proclamation was also made forbidding anyone to harm any inhabitant of the town, and guards were placed to keep order.

The Pretender's Kaïd of Taza, Hj. Dahman, on the 6th instant sent away the Ghiati wife of the Pretender and two other women with some Ghiati men to the Ghiata mountains. The Kaïd himself fled to the mountains when the Ghiata retired before the assault. I went into the town about noon and met the soldiers

bringing out the inhabitants prisoners, I walked in the streets till about 4 P.M. and everywhere one saw the dead bodies of soldiers, Ghiata, and Meknessa, and many horses, and I saw many women—Moslem, Jewish—dead or wounded. One Taza man was said to have killed twenty-five soldiers while defending his house before he was shot.

Many shops and houses were looted, the soldiers taking the contents to the camp, but they were only able to make one trip for this purpose, when the looting was stopped by the proclamation referred to. I remained in the camp till 4·30 on the afternoon of the 8th, joined the caravan of K. Dris-beni-Aish and the Basha-esh-Ehergui going to Fez, and with them went to Meknessa Tahtania. We left there at midnight, and reached Tlata Nakhela in Hiayna last night, and Fez to-day at noon.

We met the convoy of reinforcements, provisions, &c., in Ulad Bouzian, Hiayna. K. Dris-beni-Aish gave them 200 horsemen from his escort to augment their party. The road was still unsafe for small parties of travellers.

No. 434.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 159.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 18, 1903.

THE French Minister told me yesterday morning that from information which he had received from the Algerian frontier, it would appear that the authorities whom the Pretender had recently installed at Oojdah had been compelled to abandon that town, and that, therefore, the place had again returned to its allegiance to the Sultan. It is to be hoped that the reassertion of His Majesty's authority will be permanent.

The Pretender, M. Saint-René Taillandier stated, was reported to have moved westwards, and I gathered that his following wassupposed to be small.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 435.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 160.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 18, 1903.

A CERTAIN uneasiness has been felt at Tangier during the past week owing to reports which were current that some of the neighbouring tribes were contemplating nocturnal attacks on the outlying houses in the scattered suburbs of this town, for the purpose of abducting European residents, and also on account of the approach of two lieutenants of the Pretender towards Tetuan, distant some 45 miles from here.

In respect to the former of these reports, I am inclined to believe that the project had been mooted among certain tribes or portions of tribes, but that it did not meet with the countenance of the majority. The plan itself, in view of the weakness of Government authority, would not be difficult of execution; still, I have my doubts whether the natives would when the moment arrived nerve themselves to such an unprecedented act.

As regards the movements of the Pretender's lieutenants, many wild and conflicting rumours have been afloat, and there is no doubt that the population of Tetuan has been considerably alarmed. There is now a strong garrison in the place, and plenty of ammunition and provisions. There should, therefore, be no difficulty in successfully repelling any attack.

I trust that when the facts of the capture of Taza and of the re-establishment of the Sultan's authority at Oojdah are more generally known and placed beyond cavil, the agitation will gradually calm down in this neighbourhood. At the same time, I can but repeat that we shall not return to a normal condition of affairs until the Government have vigorously asserted their authority in these districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 436.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 161.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 18, 1903.

FROM reports I have received from Fez, it seems that the Minister of War is gradually re-establishing the Sultan's authority in and near Taza.

On the day following the capture of the town the septs of Ghiata inhabiting the surrounding districts came in and submitted to Sid Menebhi. Some of the prisoners taken during the fighting have been released, while others of the townspeople have been put in prison. Some of the Ghiata and Meknessa tribesmen have received grants of houses in Taza, presumably as a reward for their services in the capture of the town.

The road from Taza to Fez is still very insecure, it being necessary for all travellers to obtain a "sattat" (*i.e.*, pass or safe conduct from the tribes, not from the Government), and even when in possession of one the road is not safe for small parties.

The convoy of provisions and ammunition which left Fez last week arrived safely at Taza on the 13th instant, but in spite of this, food and forage are still scarce and dear.

The Minister of War is taking stringent precautions for the preservation of order in the town, all persons with arms being obliged to leave them at the gate on entering the town, receiving them back on quitting it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 437.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 382. Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 29, 1903.

THE French Ambassador called on me to-day on his return from Paris. His Excellency told me that he had discussed at some length with M. Delcassé the possibility of an understanding between our two countries in regard to Morocco and other questions which I had discussed with the Minister for Foreign Affairs when he was in London. It seemed to M. Delcassé that we were virtually in agreement, and M. Cambon was authorized to place me in possession of M. Delcassé's views, which were as follows :—

As to Morocco, M. Delcassé thought that the two Governments might agree that the existing constitution of that country, "au point de vue politique," as well as "au point de vue territorial," should be maintained.

The British Government might, on the other hand, accord full recognition to the fact that France, having a frontier of vast extent coterminous with that of Morocco, has a peculiar interest in maintaining peace within that country, and in assisting the Moorish Government to bring about the administrative, economical, and financial improvements of which Morocco stands so much in need.

The French Republic would, however, declare expressly that these improvements should be carried out in such a fashion that the principle of commercial liberty would be absolutely respected, and that there would result from them no inequality either in the matter of the customs duties levied in the Moorish ports, or as regards the rates charged for the transport of goods by rail. His Excellency explained to me that the reservation as to railway rates was suggested in deference to an observation which Mr. Balfour had made to M. Delcassé upon this subject.

M. Delcassé considered that the two Governments, holding as they did that the free passage of the Straits of Gibraltar should be secured, might undertake to act together with the object of preventing the erection of any fortifications on the Moorish coast of the Straits. I observed to his Excellency that it would scarcely be correct to represent Great Britain as being interested only in that part of the Morocco coast-line which abutted on the Straits of Gibraltar. There were other parts of the Moorish Littoral to which we

could not afford to be indifferent. His Excellency observed that he saw no difficulty in meeting my objection. France was, indeed, interested in preventing any Power from establishing itself, not only in the neighbourhood of the Straits, but at other points on the Moorish coast which could be used with effect for strategical purposes.

As to Spain, M. Delcassé thought that the two Governments, recognizing the interests which accrued to her as the result of her possession of the "Présides," might agree that a direct understanding should be come to between the French and the Spanish Governments. Such an understanding would have to be consistent with the arrangement come to between France and Great Britain at other points, and its terms would be communicated by the French to the British Government.

I asked M. Cambon, in reference to what he had said as to an arrangement between France and Spain, whether the Spanish Government had yet been approached. He replied that this was the case, and that proposals had been made to Señor Sagasta's Government last autumn. No answer had, however, been received; the Spaniards were notoriously careless and dilatory in their diplomatic proceedings.

Passing to Siam, M. Delcassé's ideas might be summed up as follows: The Convention of 1896 ought to be maintained in regard to the basin of the River Menam. British influence would be recognized on the western and French influence on the eastern side of the basin of the Menam. Although the British sphere would under such a division be less extensive than the French, the former would be distinctly more valuable in respect of the richness of its soil, its mineral wealth, and the strategic positions which it affords.

In regard to Newfoundland, M. Delcassé had told me that the French would consent to surrender their Treaty rights in return (1) for an indemnity paid to those engaged in the prosecution of the fishing industry upon the French shore; (2) for a guaranteed right to catch or buy bait; (3) for a territorial compensation.

I interrupted his Excellency at this point by calling his attention to the fact that the question of the bounties granted by France to her fishermen would certainly be raised by the Newfoundland Government, and we must endeavour to discover some way of dealing with it.

Finally, in regard to the New Hebrides, M. Delcassé observed that Great Britain interested herself in those islands on account of her connection with Australia, that France interested herself in them on account of her connection with New Caledonia, and because a considerable part of the private property in the New Hebrides is in French hands. In these circumstances, a division seemed to M. Delcassé the most obvious solution, and it would only be, in the event of our attempts to arrive at such a division proving fruitless, that some other solution might have to be looked for.

When his Excellency had completed his statement, of which he allowed me to take a note, I called his attention to the fact that he had made no mention of one country in which both France and England had interests, and which it would be impossible to exclude from consideration if a comprehensive settlement were to be attempted. I referred to Egypt. I was sure M. Delcassé would bear me out when I said that I had particularly mentioned the question of Egypt to him. M. Delcassé had said to me in reply that Egypt, like Morocco, formed part of the "African question," and that, if we could come to terms as to Morocco, there would probably be no great difficulty in coming to terms as to Egypt also.

M. Cambon said that my recollection was not in fault, but that I had said nothing particular about Egypt to him, and that he had no instructions on the subject from M. Delcassé. Would it not, M. Cambon asked, be possible for us to deal with the other points which he had enumerated, and to leave Egypt alone for the present?

I replied that it was, to my mind, out of the question that we should leave Egypt out of consideration. It was quite true that our Representatives in Egypt at this moment were on excellent terms, but I could well conceive that difficulties might some day present themselves to us in that country.

M. Cambon said that there was one difficulty which would certainly have to be faced in the near future—he referred to the conversion of the Egyptian Debt. His own idea, however, was that an arrangement might be come to as to Egypt upon the basis of a recognition of existing institutions. He cited particularly the interest of France in Egyptian archæological researches, which she had done so much to promote. She would expect to retain her museums and other scientific institutions.

I told M. Cambon that I should have much pleasure in repeating his observations to my colleagues. They seemed to be useful as a basis for further discussion, but there were many points which I felt sure we should require to examine very carefully before we could proceed further.

No reference was made by M. Cambon to the question of Sokoto, and I inferred that the territorial compensation, which was asked for in return for the abandonment of French rights in Newfoundland, would probably be looked for in that direction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 438.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 162.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 23, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have received despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod, giving a detailed account of the state of affairs in the capital and in the camp of the Minister of War at Taza.

From these it seems that after the city was captured on the 7th instant, the troops gave themselves over to the pillage of the town. The Jewish quarter and the shops and houses of the principal Moorish merchants were sacked, and the women and children carried off to the camp by the soldiers, being subsequently released for a money payment. It appears that the town was not set fire to, and that no houses were burnt, even in the Jewish quarter.

The state of the country between Taza and Fez is still very insecure, and robberies are frequent. The Branes, Ghiata, and Hiayna tribes, though they have submitted nominally to the Government, are still in sympathy with the Pretender, as a messenger of Mr. McLeod's, returning from Taza to Fez, was roughly handled in a Branes village and imprisoned in the mosque as a spy, and he only escaped with difficulty.

The high prices of food and forage in the camp have tempted the surrounding tribes to bring provisions into the camp, and high prices have consequently fallen.

Since the capture of Taza, the Minister of War has undertaken no further active operations; his time having been occupied by the disposal of the loot and by receiving the submission of the tribes. On the 14th instant the Beni Ujan Sept of Ghiata tendered their submission. Before accepting it, the Minister of War demanded the surrender of Hadj Dahman-ben-el-Ayashi, the Pretender's Kaid of Taza, and the relatives of the Pretender who had taken refuge with the Beni Ujan. On their refusal to fulfil this condition, Sid Menebhi caused the deputation to be imprisoned, and threatened them with death.

There is no trustworthy news as to the movements of the Pretender or his lieutenants, but the general impression is that his following and influence are diminishing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 439.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 164.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 24, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have received a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul McLeod, informing me that the Sultan left Fez on his way to the camp of the Minister of War at Taza on the morning of the 20th instant.

His Majesty was not accompanied by any of the Europeans in the service of the Moorish Government or attached to the Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 440.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 165.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 25, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 160 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to report that the garrison of Tetuan made a sortie on the above date and vigorously attacked the tribes in the neighbourhood—Anjera, Wad Ras, and others—who were on their way to join one of the Pretender's lieutenants. The fighting seems to have been severe, and the troops were completely successful, inflicting considerable losses on the tribes. On the 21st instant, a column of Shereefian troops, who had been encamped during some weeks near Tangier, proceeded into the Wad Ras country, found it deserted, and destroyed some villages and the standing crops.

It is now reported that the Anjera and Wad Ras tribes are anxious to submit to the Government, and it is stated that they will shortly send in deputations with that object. There are one or two other tribes who have taken a very prominent part in all the recent disturbances who will require punishment; and it is to be hoped that this will be administered. The lieutenants of the Pretender appear to have retired, but information is very contradictory as to the localities whither they have withdrawn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 441.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 1, 1903.

CID HADJ MOHAMMED TORRES has received information that some of the tribes near Tetuan who have recently submitted to the Government have seized both the lieutenants of the Pretender.

The captors are discussing whether they should hand their prisoners over to the authorities at Tetuan or send them to Fez.

The Sultan, who is slowly advancing towards Taza, has been joined by the Minister of War.

The latter is desirous that the Sultan should receive the complete submission of the tribes, whom he himself has only had time to partially subdue, before His Majesty enters Taza.

No. 442.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 3.)

(No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 2, 1903.

INFORMATION was received here yesterday by the Sultan's deputy, in a telegram from the Moorish Commissioner at Lalla Maghnia, that an engagement had occurred two or three days ago in the district near the mouth of the River Muluya, in which the Pretender had been severely wounded.

To-day Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres has received a second telegram, stating that positive information had arrived to the effect that the Pretender had succumbed to his wound.

Information from Nemours and Melilla has reached the French and Spanish Ministers respectively that the Government troops had had a successful engagement with the rebel forces, and M. de Cologan informed me that fugitives with live stock were taking refuge in Melilla.

The Government forces engaged were those sent from Tangier to Nemours by sea, referred to in my telegram No. 142 of the 7th ultimo.

No. 443.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 4.)

(No. 152.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 4, 1903.

MY immediately preceding telegram of the 2nd instant.

I have been informed by M. Saint Réné Taillandier that he has received official information from the Algerian frontier to the effect that though the report of the death of the Pretender is not yet absolutely confirmed, it is certain that he has been very seriously wounded.

No. 444.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 390 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 5, 1903.

THE French Ambassador to-day returned to the subject of Morocco, which we had discussed on the 29th ultimo. He had, he told me, since that date, been in communication with M. Delcassé, who had confirmed the statement made to me by his Excellency on the occasion in question. M. Delcassé remained of opinion that, so far as Morocco was concerned, there was no difference of opinion between us.

I replied that, in my estimation, our difficulties would commence when we got to close quarters in matters of detail. The proposals which M. Delcassé had made as to commercial freedom in that country, the neutralization of a part of the coast, and the recognition of Spanish interests, had been merely outlined, and we should have to fill in the description with the utmost care. Moreover, he must not forget that I had consented to deal with the question of Morocco only upon the condition that it was discussed as forming part of a general settlement which was to comprehend other points in which both Governments were interested. I said that since our last meeting, I had submitted to the Cabinet a report of the conversation which had taken place between us. I had found my colleagues unanimous as to the necessity of including Egypt in any arrangement which might be made, and I was convinced that they would not entertain any proposals which did not include one for the regularization of our position in that country. M. Cambon said that M. Delcassé had understood me to refer merely to the necessity of removing certain financial restrictions which we found inconvenient, and that a formal recognition by France of our position in that country was a much more serious matter. I could have no idea of the extent to which "l'esprit Français" was moved by the Egyptian question. France had missed her opportunity in Egypt, we had seized ours; but we had announced that our occupation was not to be permanent. The French nation clung to this idea, and held us in theory to that engagement, although, perhaps, with no very definite expectation that we should fulfil it. Any French Government which proposed to recognize the permanency of our hold upon the country would require an immense amount of nerve ("d'estomac"); but M. Delcassé was not deficient in courage and was prepared to face the attempt. We must, however, clearly understand that, if it was to be made, and if France was to be so obliging as to extract this "big thorn from the foot of Great Britain," she would look for "une grosse compensation." It might take the shape of greater liberty of action in Morocco: something less remote and conjectural ("moins hypothétique") than she had yet asked for. We should, moreover, remember that the Egyptian question concerned not France alone, but other Powers, with whom we should have to reckon. If, however, we wanted concessions in Egypt, M. Delcassé thought we should formulate our requirements.

I said that I was prepared to do so, and that I had, indeed, always contemplated the necessity of putting in a statement of the concessions which we should require in return for those which France hoped to obtain at our hands, and I begged his Excellency to remember that, if we were to give France what she desired in Morocco, we too should require the same kind of nerve when we came to justify our proposals to the people of this country.

We then spoke of Spain. His Excellency told me that in August 1902, and again during the last few months, the French Government had approached the Spanish

Government with regard to the Moorish question. The overture had been favourably received, both by Señor Sagasta's Government and by that of Señor Silvela, although the matter had not been at all advanced by either. I gathered from what his Excellency told me that the proposal made had been to the effect that, if ever a liquidation of Morocco should become inevitable, but not otherwise, Spain would receive a considerable slice of the Moorish coast line in the neighbourhood of her existing possessions, with a certain amount of adjoining hinterland, and that it was contemplated that under such an arrangement Tangier would fall to the lot of Spain. That country would, however, be bound not to erect fortifications within the territory thus assigned to it, nor to dispose of that territory to another Power. A full and complete neutralization of any part of the coasts seemed, M. Cambon said, impossible, as it would involve the adhesion of other Powers, but for our purposes it would be enough if Great Britain, France, and Spain were to agree that none of them were to erect fortifications within limits to be agreed upon, or allow other Powers to do so.

I asked M. Cambon what he thought Germany would say to such an arrangement. He said that Germany had at one time certainly wished for a coaling station near the mouth of the Muluya River, but that nothing had recently been heard of German designs on Morocco.

I said that I should no doubt be questioned by the Spanish Government as to our policy towards that country. They were, of course, aware of M. Delcassé's interview with me, and it would be obvious to them that no interchange of ideas was likely to have taken place without some reference to Morocco. I proposed, therefore, to tell the Spanish Government that His Majesty's Government had determined to do nothing behind their back, and that although we considered that it might be simpler and more convenient that Spain should be directly approached by France, we should make it our business to ascertain that she was fully consulted, and that her interests were adequately provided for. M. Cambon agreed, saying that although he thought it might be inconvenient that we should bind ourselves to keep the Spanish Government informed of everything that passed between us, he thought we might safely tell the Spanish Government that we both held that it was above all necessary that Spain should be satisfied ("que l'Espagne avant tout doit avoir satisfaction").

I told his Excellency that I would do my best during the next few weeks to prepare a full description of the terms upon which His Majesty's Government would be prepared to enter into an arrangement of the kind which we had been discussing. The members of the Government would, however, separate for the holidays next week, and it would, therefore, not be easy for me for some little time to supply him with a final statement upon the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 445.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, August 7, 1903.

I HAVE received information through Mr. Macleod to the effect that a force has arrived at Fez of 3,000 men from Tafilelt, who are being sent to reinforce His Majesty's camp.

The Sultan is approaching Taza, and should by now have reached that city.

I have not yet received positive confirmation of the reported death of the Pretender.

No. 446.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 166.)
My Lord,

Tangier, July 28, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Memorandum, compiled from information received by Vice-Consul MacLeod from a Branes tribesman, who was at one time a partizan of the Pretender.

He left him at Jebûga, as he discovered there that he was not Muley Mohammed as he pretended to be, but Jellali Zarhoni, as he was there identified by several persons as such.

He therefore proceeded to Magh-nia, where he was employed by the French to collect news for them, and in this capacity returned to the Pretender's camp at Kasbah Iselwan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 446.

Memorandum.

AFTER the defeat inflicted by the Pretender on Muley Amrani on the 23rd December last, he established his head-quarters at Tafaza, where he celebrated his marriage with a woman of Ghiata. He then marched into Hiayna, and on the 29th January he was attacked, wounded, and put to flight by the Minister of War. The Pretender fled to Ahl Tahir, in Ghiata, where he rallied his scattered forces and marched again to Hiayna. On the 12th February a collision occurred between the rebel forces and those of Sid Menebhi, but the result was indecisive. After this engagement the Pretender marched to Ain Mediouna, and on the night of the 25th February attacked the Basha Esh-Shergui's camp and scattered it, but on the next morning (the 26th February) the rebels were surprised by Sid Menebhi's whole force and routed without a shot being fired.

The Pretender then returned to Ain Mediouna, and went thence to Mezziat, whence he sent a force to watch the Basha Esh-Shergui's division between Beni Zeroual and Jaifa, and on the 14th March proceeded to Taza where he celebrated the great feast (sheep feast).

Ater the feast the Pretender marched to Kasbah Msun, and then proceeded through Metalsa to Jebuja, where he arrived on the 30th March. Here several septs made their submission to him, and he appointed Kaïds over them, and made arrangements for the conduct of his administration. He also took two Guelaya (one of the tribes who had joined him) women in marriage, and from Jebuja marched to Kasbah Iselwan, where he celebrated the two marriages and received further submissions.

The attack on Kasbah Jenada lasted ten days, and the rebels lost nine men killed, the fort being eventually taken by blowing up the wall with gunpowder.

The survivors of the garrison, including Muley Arafa, the Sultan's uncle, took refuge in Melilla, and the Pretender demanded their surrender from the Spaniards, which was of course refused.

He also dispatched officials to the Spanish frontier to establish a customs house, but the authorities at Melilla refused to recognize them.

No. 447.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 167.)
My Lord,

Tangier, July 28, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have received a letter from a Moorish resident in Morocco city, who informs me that of late considerable disturbances have taken place in the Sûs district. These disturbances are not directed against the Sultan's authority, but against the Kaïds of various districts. The roads are open, and travellers are able to proceed in safety through the Sûs provinces.

The Rahamma tribe, whose territory surrounds Morocco city, and who are noted for their lawlessness, have recently demanded the release of certain prisoners arrested ten years ago for debts owing to foreigners; they were informed that the matter must be referred to the Sultan, but they demanded an immediate answer, which was refused, and they were expelled from the city.

They now threaten to plunder all travellers and caravans passing through their country to and from Morocco city.

The British Vice-Consul at Laraiche reports that the Zemmour and Beni Hasen tribes, who are usually at enmity with one another, have joined forces, and have been

raiding the Gharb villages and recently carried off some cattle, &c., belonging to the Sultan.

This movement, if not checked, may lead to serious consequences, as foreigners possess considerable agricultural and commercial interests in the Gharb.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 448.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 10.)

(No 169.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 30, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have received letters from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, stating that the Minister of War left Taza with 500 men for Fez in order to escort the Sultan from his capital to his camp.

On the 25th instant he met His Majesty at Metafi, about 6 miles from Fez, where he is now encamped, and obtained leave from him to visit Fez to see his family. He arrived at Fez on the 26th instant, but will join the Sultan shortly at Metafi, and proceed with him to Taza.

The road between Taza and the capital is still in a very unsettled condition, and a messenger sent by Mr. MacLeod was only able to proceed half way, owing to the hostile attitude of the Tsul tribes and the Ulad Buzian sept of Hiayna.

It appears that the Kaïds of Tsul are loyal to the Government, and that it is only the people who are disaffected.

The whole of Branes and Ghiata, with the exception of one sept in each tribe, have submitted.

The Huara tribe is divided, one portion being stated to be with the Pretender near the Muluya River, while other contingents of this tribe and the Beni Bu Zeggou have promised the Minister of War that, if reinforced by some cavalry, they would attack and, if possible, capture the Pretender. Sid Menebhi accepted the offer, and dispatched a column of 1,000 mounted men for this purpose.

He also sent a column of some 500 men to quell the disturbances in Tsul, but this has been forced to return.

It is further stated that the Algerian Emir, Sidi Abd-el-Aziz, is encamped at Al Maghriwa, oppositite Ain Mediouna, with a few mounted men and between 1,000 and 2,000 infantry. He was requested by the inhabitants to leave, but refused to do so. His camp is provisioned by the hill tribes to the north, *i.e.*, Sinhaja Sagheer, Mtioua, and others.

Notwithstanding the fact that some of the districts in the immediate neighbourhood of Taza and the roads leading thereto are still in a disturbed condition, I think the situation will rapidly change as soon as the Sultan advances through them and reaches Taza itself.

The news which I have received from the country to the north of Oojdah continues to be satisfactory, and it is expected that the authority of the Sultan will soon be firmly established in those parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 449.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 171.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August 2, 1903.*

THE French Minister told me this morning that he was still without news of the five Frenchmen who had been seized by the tribes on the coast south of Cape Juby, and that all the information that he had received was that the captors had stated that they intended to hand their prisoners over to the nearest local authorities. This information had been given to the agents of M. Lebaudy, who had endeavoured to ransom the unfortunate men.

M. St. Rene Taillandier added that he had requested M. Descos, the First Secretary of the French Legation, to inform the Moorish Government that the whole affair was a foolish escapade on the part of an irresponsible individual. He was, he said, anxious to receive news of the fate of the captives, as the tribes in those districts were proverbially treacherous.

The German Minister informs me that he heard that most of the crew of M. Lebaudy's yacht had deserted, and that the Spanish authorities at Las Palmas had practically placed an embargo on the vessel owing to her papers not being in order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 450.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 172.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August 2, 1903.*

THE Sultan's Deputy informed a member of the Legation staff this morning that he had received yesterday a telegram from the Moorish Commissioner at Lalla Maghnia that the Pretender had received a severe gunshot wound, presumably in an engagement which had recently taken place, and that a later telegram which had arrived this morning reported that, from positive information which had been received, the Pretender had succumbed to his wound. It is, I think, beyond doubt that an engagement did take place in the neighbourhood of the Muluya River between the Government forces and the rebels in those districts, and that the former were successful. The Spanish Minister read to me yesterday a telegram which he had received from the Governor of Melilla, reporting that refugees with a large number of live-stock were flocking into that place, owing to a defeat which had been inflicted on the forces of the Pretender, and the French Minister told me this morning that he had received news from Algeria that the column which had recently passed through Algerian territory had commenced operations in the north-eastern corner of Morocco, and had obtained certain successes.

It is difficult to state positively whether the Pretender was actually present in these localities, as so many contradictory reports are constantly afoot as to his whereabouts. It is quite possible that he was present at the engagement above referred to, and that he was mortally wounded. Later information may finally decide this point. The French Minister added that he had sent Captain Larras, an officer formerly attached to the French Military Mission, to assist the Moorish Commissioner who was on the Algerian frontier, as the latter appeared to be in need of some competent advice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 451.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 89. Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 11, 1903.*

I HAVE from time to time made you aware of the purport of the discussions which have taken place between myself and the French Ambassador at this Court in regard to various questions in which the territorial and other interests of Great Britain and France are concerned, and I forwarded to you with my No. 77, Secret, of the 17th July a copy of my despatch No. 336 to Sir E. Monson, containing an account of my conversation with M. Delcassé on the occasion of his recent visit to this country.

That visit has attracted considerable attention, and has, not unnaturally, led to numerous surmises as to the nature of the communications which have been passing between the two Governments. No country is more likely than Spain to watch the progress of these communications with interest. It is almost inconceivable that a closer understanding between Great Britain and France should not to some extent affect the future destinies of Morocco, and His Majesty's Government are well aware of the interest taken by Spain in the affairs of that country, and of her desire that there should be no disturbance of its international position.

Spain has possessions of some importance on the Moorish coast, and the close proximity of the two countries has, not unnaturally, led to an expectation on the part of the Spanish Government and people that Spanish interests would receive special consideration in the event of a collapse of the Sultan's authority, an authority which has never been effectually exercised in the greater part of His Highness' dominions, and which the recent rebellion at one moment threatened entirely to overthrow.

In these circumstances, it is most important that the Spanish Government should not labour under any misapprehension as to the attitude of this country towards Morocco, and as to the nature of the communications which have lately passed between the British and French Governments.

You will have observed that throughout those communications I have never failed to impress upon the French Government the fact that we desired to discourage all proposals for a partition of Morocco, and that should such a partition become inevitable, it would be essential that the interests of Spain should receive adequate recognition.

I desire to call your particular attention to the fact that the French Government have given explicit assurances that they have no desire to annex Morocco or to bring about the removal of the Sultan. They contend, however, that the proximity of His Highness' possessions to the Algerian possessions of France, with which they are coterminous along a frontier of several hundred miles, gives to France an interest in the interior of Morocco which no other foreign Power can reasonably claim, and they argue that in these circumstances the Sultan, who is not likely to hold his own for long without European assistance and advice, must necessarily turn for guidance and for assistance in improving the administration of his country to France, which would, as a logical consequence, thereby acquire a predominant position at the Moorish Court.

Upon the 29th ultimo the subject was again referred to by M. Cambon under instructions from M. Delcassé, whom he had seen during his visit to Paris. I inclose herewith a copy of a despatch to Sir E. Monson containing a full account of our conversation. You will observe that M. Delcassé suggested that an understanding with regard to the recognition of Spanish interests in Morocco might be most conveniently brought about by means of direct communications between the French and Spanish Governments. He admitted, however, that such an understanding would have to be consistent with the arrangement come to as to Moorish affairs generally between Great Britain and France, and he agreed that its terms should be communicated by the French to the British Government.

M. Cambon further, in reply to a question which I addressed to him, admitted that proposals in this direction had already been made by the French to the Spanish Government last autumn.

The course suggested by M. Delcassé appears to us *primâ facie* reasonable. It will be simpler and probably more convenient to both parties that the terms of any arrangements which might be come to for the purpose of safeguarding Spanish interests, either at the present time or in the event of a future division of Morocco into spheres subject to foreign influence, should be discussed in the first instance at all events between the French and Spanish Governments. The French Government have undertaken that the result of such a discussion should be communicated to His Majesty's Government, and it is unnecessary for me to add that if, before it commences, or while it is in progress, the Spanish Government desire to confer with us, we shall be glad of the opportunity of confidentially ascertaining their views and making them aware of our own.

As I have already said, an adequate and satisfactory recognition of Spanish interests, political and territorial, has been from the first, in the view of His Majesty's Government, an essential element in any settlement of the Morocco question.

His Majesty's Government conceive, moreover, that the Spanish Government are not less interested than they are in securing satisfactory arrangements with regard to the other two points upon which His Majesty's Government have insisted, namely, the securing of equal opportunity for the commerce and enterprise of other Powers in Morocco, and the neutralization of the more important portions of the Moorish Littoral.

Spain is specially concerned in the latter point, inasmuch as she already occupies important positions on the Moorish sea-board, and because she would be specially threatened by the establishment of a foreign Power in close proximity to her own coast. It would be agreeable to His Majesty's Government to be placed in full possession of the views of the Spanish Government in regard to these important subjects.

You are authorized to make a communication in the sense of this despatch to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs. You should point out that up to the present our communications with the French Government have been of the most general character, and that we have not yet approached the discussion of details. It will, however, be in dealing with these that the most formidable difficulties will present themselves, and our task will be greatly facilitated by a full knowledge of the views of the Spanish Government.

You can, if you think proper, take this opportunity of reassuring the Spanish Government with regard to the idle rumours which have from time to time attributed to this country aggressive designs upon Spanish possessions in various quarters. His Majesty's Government have at no time harboured any such designs. They have, on the contrary, recognized, and still recognize, the value of the friendship which has so long subsisted between the two countries, and they have never contemplated any action inconsistent with these valuable traditions which they desire to maintain and, if possible, to strengthen.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 452.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 94.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1903.

I SPOKE very briefly to the Spanish Ambassador to-day in the sense of my despatch No. 89, Very Confidential, of the 11th instant to you, telling him, but quite in general terms, that throughout our discussions with the French Government, we had maintained that Spain had a right to be fully consulted as to the affairs of Morocco, and that we should not be satisfied with any arrangement which left her out of account.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 453.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 174.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 5, 1903.

MR. VICE-CONSUL MADDEN, in a despatch which I have received from him this morning, states that it is rumoured that the five captive Frenchmen who landed from the yacht of M. Lebaudy, have been handed over by the tribes to the Moorish authorities at Cape Juby.

The French Minister tells me that he has, as yet, no positive information as to where the captives are, but that he has been provided with letters from the Moorish Government instructing those authorities into whose hands his compatriots may be eventually delivered to surrender them at once to the nearest French authority.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 454.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 175.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 5, 1903.

THE French Minister informed me this morning that the Moorish Commissioner, Requeena, who has been for some time past at Lalla Maghrnia, would proceed to-morrow at the head of a Moorish column of about 2,000 men to formally re-establish the Sultan's authority at Oojdah, and to receive the submission of the tribes in that vicinity.

The other Moorish Commissioner, Sid Gabbas, who has recently been at Kiss, will proceed to Lalla Maghrnia in company with Captain Larras, a former member of the French Military Mission. The French authorities have permitted the Moorish Government to utilise Lalla Maghrnia as a depôt for stores and munitions, and every facility will be afforded for keeping the Moorish column well supplied with all necessaries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 455.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 178.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August 10, 1903.*

ACCORDING to despatches which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consu. at Fez, it would appear that I was in error in supposing that the Pretender had been defeated and himself wounded near the mouth of the Muluya River. These incidents occurred at Kasbah Msoun, which lies to the north-north-east of Taza. The Minister of War had placed a small garrison in that place, which was besieged by the Pretender, and the Government troops were being very hard pressed when they were relieved by the Huara tribesmen, who attacked the forces of the Pretender and drove them off with considerable losses. It was during this engagement that the Pretender received his wound.

As to the gravity of this wound reports are not entirely in agreement. Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod merely mentions a wound in the shoulder. The Spanish Minister has received information that there were two bullet wounds in the chest; while the French Minister informs me that the French military officer on the frontier states, from information he had received from an eye-witness, the wound was mortal, and the Pretender was carried off the field in an unconscious condition.

The Pretender's forces have withdrawn in a northerly direction, and there now appears to be no serious hostile gathering to hinder an uninterrupted advance of the Sultan to Taza. His Majesty was on the 3rd August some 25 to 30 miles from that town, and presumably by now he has arrived there and joined hands with the force which the Minister of War had left in that place.

A force of about 3,000 men, half mounted and half footmen, arrived recently at Fez from Tafilelt. These men were principally from the powerful Aits Atta Berba tribe, and were immediately forwarded to the Sultan's camp where they will be properly armed and equipped.

The arrival of this reinforcement is a very satisfactory sign, as it shows that the tribes near Tafilelt have not been induced to join the Pretender. From that district it had been impossible to obtain any trustworthy information as to what might be passing, and as to the attitude of the tribes.

A column of between 2,000 and 3,000 men under the leadership of one of the Moorish Commissioners on the Algerian frontier, is now advancing from the north into the Oojdah districts; and this expedition should be able to render effective assistance in subduing the tribes still in rebellion to the north and east of Taza.

The French authorities have granted permission for munitions and stores to be placed in depôt at Lalla Maghrnia, and they appear to be rendering such facilities as they properly can towards assisting the operations of the column.

From the Riff territory there is no news of any special importance, though the tribes still appear to be in an unsettled condition. One or two of the tribes near Tetuan show a disposition to submit to the authorities, and none of them exhibit any desire to resume active hostilities.

The roads between Tangier and Tetuan are not yet perfectly free and open.

There is on the whole a very marked improvement in the general situation, and though order and tranquillity have not yet been re-established, there can be no question that the rebellion has passed out of the acute stage and is no longer a cause for any disquietude. Even should the Pretender recover from his wounds and take the field again, his adherents are diminishing in numbers and are evidently losing their enthusiasm; while the operations which the Sultan will be able to direct from Taza in conjunction with those undertaken from the north should gradually envelope and subdue any tribes who still remain hostile.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 456.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 155.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 17, 1903.*

I HAVE received letters from Mr. Macleod up to the 13th instant, in which he states that more opposition is being shown to the Sultan's advance than was expected. His Majesty is delaying his advance into Taza, from which place he is about 25 miles distant, till he has thoroughly subdued the Tsul and other tribes.

Communications between Fez and Taza are unsafe, and the garrison of the latter place are becoming rather hard pressed for food.

There are rumours in circulation at Fez as to the death of the Pretender.

The former reports as to his death were evidently unfounded, or, at least premature, but it appears certain that he was wounded, and also hurt by a fall from his horse.

No. 457.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 20, 1903.*

I HAVE received letters from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, dated the 16th instant, informing me that the situation at Taza is much relieved, and that provisions are much cheaper and more easily obtainable.

The Sultan, who has received considerable reinforcements, was to make an attack in combination with the Taza garrison on the Tsul tribes on the 16th August.

No. 458.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 20, 1903.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 148 of the 23rd ultimo, I gather from information current in financial circles in Tangier that the contractor for the new French Loan for 20,000,000 fr. has not been able to raise the requisite funds in Paris.

M. de Cologan informs me that efforts will be made to obtain some more money in Spain, but that he is writing to discourage the project in a private letter to his Government.

No. 459.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 25, 1903.*

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 184 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that Mr. Pariente, the Agent for the British Loan, reported in Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 72 of the 29th March, has offered to endeavour to raise another loan on the same terms as before and for a similar amount. He has received a letter from the Moorish Minister for Finance accepting the offer and has addressed himself to Sir E. Cassel and Co.

No. 460.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 68. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Zarauz, August 23, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 89, Very Confidential, of the 11th August, regarding certain discussions which have taken place between your Lordship and the French Ambassador upon the affairs of Morocco and other questions.

On the 18th August I had an interview with the Count of San Bernardo, and explained the situation to him in detail. He seemed entirely satisfied, and expressed in the most cordial terms his sense of the friendly feeling shown towards Spain in this matter by His Majesty's Government. He assured me of his earnest desire to act in accord with England, and of his conviction that the best interests of Spain would be served by a thoroughly good understanding between the two Powers. He said he would consult with the Prime Minister on the whole question and would speak to me again.

Yesterday, at his request, I called on him a second time. He had, meanwhile, seen Señor Villaverde, who was in San Sebastian for a few days, and had spoken to the King on the subject.

He began by informing me that he found the Prime Minister and the Spanish Government generally held the same views as himself, and that their wish was to deal with the whole question as openly and frankly as possible. He asked me to dismiss from my mind all idea of a Franco-Spanish alliance. This, he said, had no existence except in the imagination of the newspapers, and the Spanish Government had not the smallest intention of being drawn into it. On the contrary, they regarded their interests in Morocco as being identical with the interests of England, and the first of these interests was the maintenance of the *status quo*. At the same time he recognized that the French were making great strides in the establishment of their influence, and he felt that it might be desirable to settle beforehand what should be the share of Spain in case of a break-up of the Moorish Empire. He could not tell me exactly at present what Spain wanted, but said that probably she would desire some extension of her possessions along the coast line, with a strip of hinterland, on the understanding that trade would be free, and that she would erect no fortifications of a nature to threaten the open navigation of the Straits. His language was somewhat vague, and he gave me to understand that the Spanish Government had hitherto concentrated its attention on the preservation of the *status quo*, so that no alternative arrangements had yet been considered in detail.

I gathered from what he said that he was going to study the whole question minutely, which he has not yet had time to do, and that he intended also to ascertain the views of the French Government from M. Cambon, who has now returned to San Sebastian. He ended by renewing his assurances that the Spanish Government would act in this question quite openly, and with the most sincere desire to show towards England the same friendly consideration which His Majesty's Government had throughout shown towards Spain.

My belief is that the Spanish Government does in fact wish to keep on thoroughly good terms with us, and that there is no question of an alliance with France, but I should not be surprised if Spain were to put forward hereafter claims with regard to the Moorish coast line which we may find inconvenient, and if France has accepted them the onus of opposing Spanish aspirations will fall upon us, with obvious results. I will do what I can to check the growth of extravagant pretensions by dwelling upon the expressed desire of His Majesty's Government for the neutralization of the more important portions of the Moorish littoral. But the imagination of Spaniards is easily fired, and, as I have more than once informed your Lordship, the dream of a great African empire is always before their eyes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

No. 461.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 160.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 28, 1903.*

LETTERS have reached me from Sir H. Maclean and from Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod, which were dispatched from Fez on the evening of the 24th instant, from which it appears that the operations which are being conducted against the rebels have now reached a critical stage.

I am informed that the Pretender is with the Tsul tribe, having taken up a position between ten and fifteen miles from the Sultan's camp, and that the Minister of War was reported to have left camp early on the 24th instant to attack them with a large force.

The Sultan's camp was reinforced on the 22nd instant by about 2,000 cavalry, detached from the garrison of Taza.

These men had to fight their way through the intervening country, losing five Governors killed among other heavy casualties.

Both in the Sultan's camp and at Taza provisions and forage are scarce and dear.

No. 462.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 162.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 30, 1903.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 160 of the 28th instant, I have the honour to report that the force that left the Sultan's camp on the 24th instant under the command of Sid Menebhi does not appear to have met with much success, and returned to camp after having destroyed a few villages belonging to the Tsul tribe.

No. 463.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 181.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August 17, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report that His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, in a despatch dated the 13th instant, informs me that matters are not proceeding so satisfactorily at Taza and at the Sultan's camp as might be desired. Considerably more opposition is being shown on the part of the Pretender and his lieutenants than was expected, and the action of the Commander of the Taza garrison, Kaid Omar-el-Yusi, seems to have been weak and undecided.

The roads between Taza, the Sultan's camp, and Fez, are in a very unsafe condition, and it is impossible to travel in security without a large and well-equipped escort. The consequence is, that the Taza garrison is ill supplied with bread-stuffs and horse fodder. Meat is plentiful, as all the cattle and sheep were brought in on the capture of Taza by the Minister of War, and sold to the army to prevent their being looted; but the heat is excessive, and the meat diet is telling on the health of the men. The want of fodder has caused great mortality among the horses, and such as are left are of little use for work.

The Pretender advanced through Mtalsa from Wad Ra, and on the 28th and 29th of July attacked Kasbah Msoun, but was repulsed and wounded. It is probable that it was this affair which gave rise to the rumour of his death, which was current in Tangier, and is now in circulation in Fez. It appears that he was wounded on the 29th July in the shoulder and upper arm, and had two horses shot under him, and in one of these falls he is said to have been hurt in the stomach by the saddle pommel.

After his repulse at Kasbah Msoun he rested two days, and then advanced towards Meknessa Tahtania, which he attacked on the 4th August, and after inflicting considerable loss on the garrison, captured. The Kasbah was recaptured on the same day by a relieving force from Taza, but on the ensuing day (the 5th August) it was taken and burnt by the Ghiata and Tsul, who were, it is believed, commanded by the Algerian

Emir Sidi Abd-el-Aziz. The garrison (numbering about 250 infantry) retired to Taza, without fighting, by order of the Commander-in-chief.

Kaid Omar-el-Yusi on the same day led an attack on the Pretender's camp; but he seems to have conducted it in a very half-hearted manner, and allowed himself to be driven back with scarcely any loss, and without inflicting any damage on the enemy.

On the next day (the 6th August) the insurgents attacked Taza from the north-east and north-west, but were repelled without difficulty by the garrison.

On the 7th instant orders were received by the Commander-in-chief from the Sultan for a combined attack to take place on the 8th instant on Tsul, but Kaid Omar-el-Yusi, hearing that the Pretender had shifted his position, disregarded the order.

The Sultan attacked Tsul on the 8th and 9th instant, but, owing probably to the disregard of his orders by the Commander-in-chief at Taza, the action was inconclusive. No further fighting took place after the 9th instant.

It appears that His Majesty and the Minister of War intend to reduce the Tsul, Branes, and Ghiata tribes to subjection before they advance to Taza, from which place their camp is about 25 miles distant in Sek-el-Tlata in Hiayna. There would be no difficulty in His Majesty joining hands with the Taza force at once, but by doing so he would risk having his communications with Fez interrupted.

The Tafilelt contingent of some 3,000 men has joined the Sultan, who has been further reinforced by about 1,000 men under the Basha Esh-Shergui, and some 300 cavalry of the Zayan tribe.

I have the honour to inclose a photo-map of the Taza district, showing the positions of the various forces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 463.

Photo-Map of the Taza District.

[Not printed.]

No. 464.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 182.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 18, 1903.

THE British Vice-Consul at Laraiche reports that the Gharb Province, a rich district lying to the south of the above-named place, has of late been the scene of great disorder.

The Beni Hassan tribe, a lawless and predatory people, have been destroying and plundering many villages and farms, and the Gharb tribes have retaliated to the best of their ability. Mr. Forde states that much property belonging to foreigners and foreign-protected persons has been carried off or destroyed, and he adds that both sides are committing acts of barbarity, massacring women and children.

All the Gharb Governors are at the Sultan's camp, and it is probable that their absence has encouraged the Beni Hassan to undertake their razzias.

The disturbances are quite unconnected with the disturbances in the north.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 465.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 183.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 20, 1903.

DURING the past few days rumours have been circulating in Tangier that the garrison at Taza had been reduced to the last extremity, and that the Sultan's forces themselves were in great difficulties. I received this morning a letter from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, dated the 16th instant, stating that the Taza garrison is in far easier conditions than it was a few days ago; and that the neighbouring tribes, instead of blocking communications, were now bringing in provisions, and that the price of food-stuffs and fodder had consequently fallen 50 per cent. Communications with the Sultan's camp seem also to have been fairly well established, as the Sultan's forces, in conjunction with the Taza garrison, were to make an attack on the Tsul tribes, who of late have been troublesome. I understand that during the past week the Minister of War has been active in burning villages and punishing rebels to the north of the Sultan's camp.

Besides the Tafilelt contingent, several other reinforcements had reached the Sultan, including a body of 2,000 to 3,000 Zemmour tribesmen, chiefly mounted men.

The Sultan has ordered a special ration allowance of 1*s.* 6*d.* a-day to the infantry and 4*s.* 6*d.* a-day to the cavalry of the Taza garrison. These exceedingly generous and unprecedented allowances will be a heavy charge on the Treasury if they are to be continued for any time.

With reference to the disturbances in the Gharb district, which were reported to your Lordship in my immediately preceding despatch of the 18th instant, I am informed by the British Vice-Consul at Laraiche that the two opposing parties are likely to come to an amicable understanding very shortly. Should this be brought about, it will be of advantage, but I fear that many lives have been lost, and much property destroyed during the recent disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 466.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 184.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 20, 1903.

I HAVE been informed by gentlemen connected with financial circles here that the contractor of the proposed loan of 20,000,000 fr. has been unable to find any bank in Paris willing to advance the necessary funds, and that the project is for the moment abandoned. The Spanish Minister told me this morning that some bankers here, on the invitation of the Moorish Government, were desirous of obtaining a fresh loan in Spain; but M. de Cologan stated that he had written privately to his Government suggesting that no official countenance be given to any scheme of the above nature.

I believe that there was some difficulty in obtaining subscriptions to the Spanish loan in the first instance, and any fresh proposal would probably not meet with a very cordial reception.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 467.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 186.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 23, 1903.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 182 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to report that the British Vice-Consul at Laraiche informs me that the disturbances in the Gharb Province have become more serious, negotiations for peace

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between that tribe and the Beni Hassan having fallen through, and the whole of those two provinces being now involved.

The Zemmour tribe have joined the Beni Hassan, and they have made a joint raid into the Gharb penetrating as far as Ulad Mesbah, only about seven hours south of Laraiche, carrying off much plunder.

Mr. Vice-Consul Forde reports that many of the Gharb people are flocking into Laraiche, where some uneasiness exists owing to the inability of the local authorities to maintain order with the forces at their disposal.

I do not, however, anticipate danger to Laraiche, though I fear that merchants will suffer considerable losses through the raiding of the rich pasture lands of the Gharb.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 468.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 31.)

(Confidential.)
Sir,

Admiralty, August 28, 1903.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a report by the officer commanding His Majesty's ship "Rattler," dated the 13th instant, relative to the proceedings of M. Jacques Lebaudy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. I. THOMAS.

Inclosure in No. 468.

Lieutenant-Commander Tibbits to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
Sir,

Cape Juby, August 13, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of their Lordships, facts concerning the movements of the Frenchman, M. Jacques Lebaudy, in accordance with Confidential Memorandum dated 3rd July, 1903.

On my arrival at Tenerife I ascertained through Mr. J. E. Croker, His Britannic Majesty's Consul for the Canary Islands, that M. Lebaudy was at Las Palmas, having returned from the coast of Africa about two months previously. He owns a small sailing yacht called the "Frasquita" of about 80 tons, schooner rigged, with a crew of from 10 to 12 men. She flies the French colours and also the burgee of the French Yacht Squadron. The owner was living at a hotel in Las Palmas, and he has made no pretence of concealing his object, and full accounts of his doings have been freely circulated in the island and have also appeared in the local press.

A copy of an interview between Lebaudy's representative and the editor of the "Canary Islands Review" I forward herewith.* On his first arrival at Las Palmas Lebaudy's yacht was flying an unknown flag which he said was the "flag of Troja," he having taken possession of a part of the coast south of Cape Juby, to which he had given the name of Troja, and which he alleges belongs neither to Morocco or Spain nor any other Power, and where he intends to found an empire. He styles himself the "Emperor of Troja," and expects to be treated with deference, his correspondence being directed to him under that title.

The authorities at Las Palmas informed him that they could not recognize his flag, whereupon he exchanged it for the French colours. In addition to the "Frasquita," M. Lebaudy owns a small steam-vessel of about 40 tons called the "Dahlia." She was bought at Lisbon, and whilst I was at Tenerife she was in charge of a local

* Not sent to Foreign Office, but is probably the same one we have already received from Tenerife.

firm at Las Palmas who were making good defects to her engines and boilers. Up to the 3rd August she was flying the Portuguese flag, but on that day, at the request of the Portuguese Consul, she was seized by an armed party belonging to the Spanish gun-boat "Maria de Mollena" and moored alongside that ship, where she was when I left Tenerife on the 8th August. This was carried out on the ground that a ship flying the Portuguese flag must be owned by a Portuguese and a portion of the crew must also belong to Portugal, whereas the "Dahlia" had no Portuguese papers, master, or crew.

The British Vice-Consul at Las Palmas was informed that M. Lebaudy thereupon approached the Consul-General of Liberia with a view of placing the "Dahlia" under Liberian colours.

Each of the crew of the "Frasquita" was armed with a magazine rifle, and she also carried two small hotchkiss Q.F. guns, but both rifles and guns were, I understand, seized by the Spanish authorities and landed at Las Palmas, where they were in charge of the Customs.

The Spanish authorities did not appear to attach any importance to Lebaudy's doings, and regarded his venture as senseless and foolhardy.

On the day of my departure from Tenerife it was reported that he was leaving Las Palmas for a cruise round the islands in the "Frasquita" for six days, and that he did not intend revisiting the coast for some time. In obedience to their Lordships' directions, on leaving Tenerife I proceeded for the coast, which I made about 20 miles south of Cape Juby, and searched it for boats, &c., as far as the Cape, where I anchored. There was no sign of any craft, and the heavy surf which breaks along the coast in August would have rendered landing most dangerous. On my arrival at Cape Juby, a Moor, whom I discovered to be the "Captain of the Port," boarded the ships and seemed to be much surprised and not a little perturbed at the visit of a ship of war. He could not speak English, but he led me to understand that there was a man ashore who could interpret, upon which I agreed to land with him at the Fort, in company with my navigating officer.

Whilst we were in the fort he sent for the Chief of the District, without my knowledge, who arrived with a number of retainers, and, judging by their looks, they regarded us with great suspicion.

It was only after considerable difficulty and through the medium of a most indifferent interpreter, that I managed to convince the Chief that the "Rattler" was British, and not French, and that I had only anchored for a few hours to examine the machinery. Upon hearing this the whole party, consisting of about thirty Moors—many of whom were armed with large knives—appeared much relieved. I found that the cause for their anxiety was that they thought the "Rattler" was a French man-of-war (in spite of our colours) which had arrived to enforce the release of the five men, left on the coast by Lebaudy and taken prisoners, mentioned in the letter from the Vice-Consul at Mogador. It seems that on the visit of M. Lebaudy at Cape Juby they were very much alarmed, and not a little offended, because he fired several guns, presumably meant for a salute, but which they took for aggression.

The Chief informed me that no ship had visited Cape Juby for quite six weeks, except a small steamer with provisions, from which I concluded that no craft belonging to Lebaudy had been there since the "Frasquita." There did not seem, therefore, any possibility of his having any vessels operating along the coast. The Moors had no suspicions whatever as to the real object of my visit, and the little information I was able to obtain was given spontaneously. They were most anxious to know when I was leaving, and seemed very pleased when I informed them that I was only remaining for a few hours.

After assuring themselves of our nationality (chiefly through the interpreter, who told them that we were not speaking French) they became more polite, and allowed us to depart, assisting us in obtaining a passage through the surf, which was breaking heavily near the Fort.

There was evidently much ill-feeling against the French in the neighbourhood, probably much aggravated by Lebaudy's behaviour, and it would, therefore, appear as if his chances of obtaining a peaceful footing on the coast were extremely remote, even were he allowed to do so. I am of opinion that any Frenchman landing at Cape Juby at present, unless supported by an armed party, would be immediately taken prisoner.

I would submit, in conclusion, that the actions of M. Lebaudy seem to be the result of a peculiar infatuation, and that his so-called expedition is of small pretensions.

The Spanish authorities in the Canary Islands are keeping a strict watch over his movements, and he is constantly attended by a Spanish gun-boat whenever his yacht is under way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. TIBBITS,
Lieutenant and Commander.

No. 469.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 163.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 31, 1903.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 160 of the 28th instant.

A report has reached me from the Vice-Consul at Fez to the effect that another attack, this time a more successful one, was made on the 25th August against the Tsul tribe, prisoners numbering about seventy having been taken, and several villages being burnt.

The next day this was to have been followed up by a further attack, but a deputation from Tsul having arrived to ask for terms, the proposed attack was abandoned.

A report came to hand to the effect that on the 24th August the Pretender's eutenant had been repulsed with loss after making an attack on Taza, and also that he followers of the Pretender had diminished.

No. 470.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 164.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September 2, 1903.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 161 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the release of the captive sailors at Cape Juby has been effected, and the French cruiser "Galilée" has arrived here to-day with them on board.

The above message was also sent to San Sebastian.

No. 471.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 165.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September 5, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 190 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report that M. Descos, the French Chargé d'Affaires, informed me that Rekeena, th Commissioner of the Sultan and Commander of the Moorish troops at Oojdah, had moved with a force of considerable strength to effect a junction with the troops of the Sultan, who are garrisoning Taza.

Rekeena's advance was opposed by the tribes, and his force was compelled to fall back on Oojdah.

The latter town is tranquil.

No. 472.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 187.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August 26, 1903.*

MR. ABENSUR, of the firm of Moses Pariente, who are the agents for Sir E. Cassel and Mr. Stern in their loan to the Moorish Government, reported in Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 72 of the 29th March, informed me yesterday that, having

heard that, owing to the heavy expenditure in connection with the operations against the Pretender, the Sultan was in need of further advances of money, he had written to Sid Mohammed Tazzi, the Minister of Finance, offering to raise a fresh loan. He has received a reply authorizing him to conclude a loan for 7,500,000 fr., or its equivalent (10,000,000 pesetas), on the same terms and conditions as before.

I beg to inclose herewith a translation of this letter, which was communicated to me by Mr. Abensur.

I observed to Mr. Abensur that it appeared to me that some risk would be incurred by persons making further advances to the Moorish Government, as they will probably find it difficult to meet their obligations, since the amounts raised, being sunk in military operations, will produce no return.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 472.

Sid Mohammed Tazzi to Messrs. Moses Pariente.

To our friend, the wise, the honourable, the merchant Moses Pariente, &c.:

WE have received your letter informing us that if the Makhzen desired to raise a loan that it might be possible to find about 7,500,000 fr. (or 10,000,000 pesetas) on the terms of the previous loans, and asking whether this Government is inclined to do it.

We have taken good note, and have submitted the same to His Shereefian Majesty, who orders me to write and give you authorization to work for a loan of 7,500,000 fr. (or 10,000,000 pesetas), and to conclude the matter with the parties, and when you have decided the same, to extend the Contract according to the terms, articles, conditions, &c., of the previous loans. You will make two copies, each to bear both texts, Arabic and European, and send them to us duly signed by the lenders, and their signatures legalized by their Ministers at Tangier.

We will send back to you one copy duly signed by me, together with the necessary Shereefian letters. The other copy will be kept by the Makhzen.

You will then let us know how we may draw the money.

(Signed) MOHAMMED TAZZI.

25th Jumad II, 1321 (*August* 20, 1903).

No. 473.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 188.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August 28, 1903.*

A DESPATCH from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, containing news from the Sultan's camp up to the evening of the 22nd instant, was received here last night.

The Pretender was reported to have moved to a spot 10 to 15 miles north-north-east of the Sultan's camp, as indicated in the accompanying map.*

This advance of the Pretender would seem to indicate that he considers himself strong enough to repel any attack or even to assume the offensive; it is possible, indeed, that his object is to cut the Sultan's line of communication with Fez.

The presence of the Pretender in their midst has doubtless encouraged the rebel tribes, and will also probably affect those which were wavering.

In obedience to orders from the Sultan, a body of about 2,000 cavalry marched from Taza to join His Majesty. They were attacked by the Tsul tribe on the way, and lost heavily, five of the country Governors in command of various contingents being amongst the killed. Their losses would have been still more serious had the Minister of War not sent out a force to their assistance.

* Not printed.

A serious feature in the present situation is the scarcity in camp of forage and provisions, which necessitates a heavier expenditure than the Sultan can maintain for long, especially if there is any truth in the report, to which His Majesty's long stay at his present camp and the comparative inaction of his force has lent colour, that His Majesty is endeavouring to purchase the submission of the tribes with gifts of money.

From Kaïd Sir H. MacLean I learn that a special messenger arrived at Fez from camp on the evening of the 24th instant, and reported that the Minister of War had left camp early that morning with a strong force to attack the Tsul tribe. If this was so, and the Pretender was at the spot indicated by Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod on the inclosed map, an important action may have been fought on that day, news of which should reach me shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 474.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 190.)
Tangier, August 29, 1903.

My Lord,

THE French Minister informed me this afternoon that a strong advance guard had been dispatched from Oojdah about three days since by the Sultan's Commissioner, Requeena, who would himself follow with the rest of his force probably on the 31st instant, with the object of marching on Taza, to assist in the Sultan's operations against the Pretender.

I inquired whether order had been sufficiently established in the Oojdah district to permit of Requeena withdrawing his force without the risk of disturbances on the frontier.

M. Saint René Taillandier replied that he did not anticipate any danger of disturbances after the departnre of Requeena, adding that the only disquieting incident that had recently arisen in that district had been caused by the Makhzen troops themselves, who had about ten days ago pursued and pillaged some tribesmen in Algerian territory, and did not withdraw before shots had been exchanged between themselves and Algerian troops, who had to be called out to repel them. Happily, Sid Gabbas was near at hand, and he immediately intervened, ordering the Moorish troops back across the frontier, and making ample apology for their action, engaging to restore at once all the property that had been seized.

M. Saint René Taillandier appeared to be more occupied with the position of affairs south of Figuig; the recent attack on Taghit had, he said, been made by a numerous force, and was very determined, though the defending party had suffered but slight losses. He observed that these attacks would doubtless continue to recur until the railway has penetrated into that district, and that it was therefore necessary to push forward the works on the railway, which at present was only completed up to Beni Ounif.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 475.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 191.)
Tangier, August 30, 1903.

My Lord,

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informs me that a Shereefian letter was read in the Karuin Mosque at Fez on the 26th instant, regarding the disaster to the body of cavalry reported in my despatch No. 188 of the 28th instant.

In this letter the Sultan states that he had sent orders to the Governors in command of cavalry contingents at Taza to attack the Tsul from the east on the morning of the 22nd instant, in co-operation with a force His Majesty would send to attack from the west. It was, however, subsequently decided to postpone the attack till the 24th

instant, and orders to that effect were sent to Taza by a messenger, who was caught on the way and robbed of his despatches. The rebels were thus prepared for the cavalry, who set out on the 22nd in accordance with the original orders, and fell into an ambush, suffering very heavily.

That the reverse was serious is shown by the fact that the Sultan should have considered it necessary to cause a Shereefian letter on the subject to be read in the mosque. I understand that numbers of wounded men continue to arrive at Fez, and that there are also many deserters. It is probable that many of the men belonging to the contingents of the Governors who were killed, would return to their homes.

In the Royal letter read in the mosque, the Sultan also states that he attacked the Tsul on the 24th instant, burning several villages, and taking some heads and prisoners. It would, however, appear from the reports of soldiers, who have come into Fez from the camp, that, though six villages were burnt, the casualties were small, and about the same on both sides.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 476.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 192.)
Tangier, August 30, 1903.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 174 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to report that I have received a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mogador, informing me that the French third-class cruiser "Galilée" arrived at that port on the 24th instant direct from Toulon.

After the exchange of the usual salutes between the vessel and the town, an officer landed from the "Galilée," and was received on landing by the Governor of the town; he, however, subsequently embarked again, without in any way communicating with the Moorish authorities, and the cruiser left in the afternoon, presumably for Cape Juby, having taken on board an Algerian official attached to the French Vice-Consulate.

Mr. Vice-Consul Madden states that the Governor of Mogador informed him that a short time previously the French Consul had inquired of the Customs officials whether they had received any instructions from the Sultan in regard to the captive sailors from M. Lebaudy's vessel, and that they had replied in the negative. The Governor added that he himself had received instructions that, should these men reach Mogador overland, he was to deliver them in custody to the French Consul. He had, however, apparently not communicated the receipt of these instructions to the French Consul.

The Governor further said that he believed the captives were not at Cape Juby, but in the hands of the Arabs further south, who would probably not be willing to surrender them except to the Sultan's officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 477.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 477.)
Paris, September 9, 1903.

My Lord,

M. DELCASSÉ said this afternoon that the recent attack upon a French convoy near El Mougar, where the French lost thirty-seven killed and some fifty wounded was an extremely serious incident; but that he thought that it was to be accounted for by the terrible distress in that region, arising from an entire failure of the harvest.

The whole population was starving, and, like wolves famished in winter by want of food, they had thrown themselves upon the only source of supply of which they

could think, and had done what under normal circumstances they would not have ventured to do.

The incident was not only melancholy, but disagreeable in the sense that it was difficult either to provide against or to punish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 478.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 166.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 11, 1903.

IT has been reported to me by the Vice-Consul at Rabat that two men from the tribe of Zair attempted to capture the Chief of the French Military Mission at Rabat, who had gone with the French Vice-Consul and some friends to visit Shella, and was at the time walking alone outside the walls. Some of his companions, who happened to see the attack, fired on his assailants with their rifles, killing a horse and, as is reported, wounding the rider. A deputation from the Zair tribe subsequently arrived at Rabat to demand satisfaction of the Governor.

With the country in its present condition this incident is unfortunate.

No. 479.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 168.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 13, 1903.

THE negotiations with Tsul tribe reported in my despatch No. 195 of the 6th instant, appears to have fallen through, as I learn from despatch from the Vice-Consul at Fez, dated the evening of the 10th instant, and from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, who has just arrived from Fez, that punitive expeditions were again dispatched against that tribe on the 7th and 8th instant, when loot and prisoners were taken and some villages burnt.

No. 480.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 193.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 3, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 192 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the French cruiser "Galilée" arrived here yesterday afternoon from Cape Juby and Mogador, having on board the five sailors from M. Lebaudy's vessel, who had been captured by the Arabs.

The French Chargé d'Affaires informs me that the five captives had been sold by the Arabs to the Moorish officials at Cape Juby, who delivered them to the Captain of the "Galilée" in accordance with instructions which had been sent by the Sultan some time previously.

The captives were all in perfect health, and had been well treated at Cape Juby, though they had suffered considerable hardships in the hands of the Arabs.

The "Galilée" left for Toulon this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 481.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 194. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 4, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 187 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Mr. Abensur informs me that he has hitherto not met with any success in his endeavours to raise a further Moorish Loan in England. He has also been in communication with Spanish Banks, but they also appear little disposed to advance the sum required. In the meantime he has received pressing messages from the Court to obtain the money as soon as possible.

The Spanish Minister came to see me yesterday, and spoke of the financial difficulties of the Sultan. He expressed considerable concern at the position of affairs, fearing serious consequences if the Moorish Government should find itself without the means of carrying on the campaign against the Pretender and the rebel tribes, and restoring order in the country. He stated that but little of the Spanish Loan remained to be drawn, whilst those from England and France were already exhausted, and that therefore unless a further loan could be negotiated, the Sultan would, at the present rate of expenditure, shortly find himself with an empty Treasury.

He informed me that he had suggested to his Government a short time since that it would be desirable that a joint loan of moderate amount be raised in England, France, and Spain under the auspices of the Governments, security being obtained from the Sultan in the shape of an assignment of a certain proportion of the customs' receipts under the joint control of the three Powers, the three already existing loans being brought into the arrangement, and placed on the same footing.

As I understand that Señor Cologan has also exposed these views to the French Chargé d'Affaires, it is possible that they have met with the approval of his Government. In any case, he himself appeared to attach considerable importance to the matter, not only from the points of view of the danger of more serious and widespread disturbances in this country should the Sultan be unable to maintain his army for want of funds, but also from the political advantages he considers would be gained by the recognition of the principle of joint action in this country by England, France, and Spain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 482.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 195.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 6, 1903.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 191 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informed me, under date of the 27th ultimo, that the Sultan's forces had made another incursion into the Tsul territory on the 25th August, and had burnt some fourteen villages, taking about seventy prisoners, but that a further raid that was to have been made the following day was countermanded on the arrival of a deputation of that tribe to ask for terms. So far as I can learn there has been no more fighting since that date, and negotiations are still proceeding, the Sultan, it is said, insisting on the surrender of the Pretender, and some influential Shereefs of the Haiyna tribe are acting as intermediaries.

Later letters from Fez report that persons arriving from the camp state that on the 31st ultimo the Ahl Tahir Sept, of Ghiata, came into the Sultan's camp and sacrificed to His Majesty, offering to assist him against the Pretender, of whom they had hitherto been the principal supporters.

I have no definite news as to the recent movements of the Pretender, but Mr. MacLeod informs me that he was reported to have moved to the northern part of Tsul with a greatly diminished following; too much reliance must not, however, be placed on such reports, which are frequently put in circulation by the Government.

In the meantime the Pretender's Lieutenant, Sidi Abdelaziz, was said to have attacked Taza on the 24th ultimo with a large force of Ghiata and one gun, but was repulsed by the garrison, who made a sortie, and captured the gun and thirty-eight prisoners.

In other parts that have been affected by the rebellion, there appears to be no improvement in the situation. In Oojdah itself and its immediate neighbourhood the tribes are quiet, but the force which recently left for Taza under the Sultan's Commissioner Rekeena met with opposition at Aioun-el-Mulook, and, as I am informed by the French Chargé d'Affaires, had to return to Oojdah abandoning their arms. This cannot fail to have a bad effect on the tribes between that town and Taza.

In the Riff the tribes, though not very active partisans of the Pretender, inasmuch as they send but few men in response to his appeals for reinforcements, remain hostile to the Government, all attempts to win them over to the Sultan having proved fruitless.

Even in the neighbourhood of Tangier, the hill tribes, though at present quiet, refuse to make their submission to the Government, and the forces at the disposal of the authorities are not sufficiently strong to operate against them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 483.

Memorandum by Sir A. Nicolson respecting Proposed Moorish Loan.

KAÏD MACLEAN should arrive in London on Friday or Saturday next, and no doubt will at once pay me a visit. I should be grateful for guidance as to what advice I should give him.

There is no doubt that the Sultan is very hard pressed for money, and that if he is to keep his levies with him an immediate supply of funds is necessary. I should doubt if any English house or group would advance money without some promise that the support of His Majesty's Government would be afforded in case of default. From a financial point of view the investment could scarcely be termed a very sound one. I estimate the customs will produce, at the outside, for this year not more than 300,000*l.* to 350,000*l.*; 54,000*l.* of this are practically already mortgaged for payment of interest on the three existing loans. The proposed loan would take 60,000*l.*, or 114,000*l.* in all. There are other pressing claims on the customs which have to be met during the year. I have no date as to the amounts, but I think I should be within the mark if I estimated them at 70,000*l.* to 80,000*l.* It would then be prudent to consider about 200,000*l.* out of the total customs revenues as pledged, supposing the new loan is carried through. Presumably the proceeds of the new loan, said to be a million sterling, would be devoted to meeting the requirements of the expeditions against the Pretender. I am told these cost the Sultan in pay and rations alone over 3,000*l.* daily, or about a million sterling a-year.

The surplus left over from the customs revenues would be at the outside 150,000*l.*; and to this should be added profits from coinage and tobacco monopoly, producing together about 150,000*l.*, or 300,000*l.* in all to meet the ordinary Palace and administrative expenditure—an inadequate amount.

In 1905 would commence or should commence the repayment by instalments of the three existing loans at the rate of 18,000*l.* a-month.

The above is a rough sketch of how matters stand financially.

I think the responsibility for the new loan, if it be taken into favourable consideration, should, as in the other loans, be divided between France, Spain, and us, and if the two former countries were disposed to enter into a tripartite arrangement, a solution might be possible. At the same time I think a million sterling is too large a sum to hand over to the Sultan; it would be rapidly and wastefully expended. I should be inclined to tell Kaïd Maclean that (1) the amount is too large; (2) that the Governments of France and Spain would have to be consulted as to joining in a loan of a smaller amount, say 60,000*l.*; and (3) that some arrangement would have to be made for some supervision as to the mode in which the proceeds were expended. I may add that these loans are very unpopular in Morocco, and are damaging to the Sultan's position. At the same time so long as he is left to his own resources he requires money to keep his army together.

A. N.

September 15, 1903.

No. 484.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 487.)
Paris, September 17, 1903.

My Lord,

CONSIDERABLE notice has been attracted by the inclosed article by M. Jaurès, the Socialist leader, in his organ, "La Petite République," on the subject of French policy in Morocco.*

M. Jaurès declares that he has positive knowledge of a design entertained by the French Government to send a military expedition into Morocco with a view to establishing a French Protectorate over the country. Tangier is to be the headquarters of the Protectorate, and candidates are already competing for the office of Mayor of that port. How, asks M. Jaurès, could the Government have embarked, as undoubtedly they have done, on so dangerous an enterprise without taking the Chambers into their confidence? Would it not have been a safer, and equally sure way of attaining their object, to allow natural causes to bring about in a peaceful and gradual manner the preponderance of French influence in the country?

The "Temps" and other moderate papers have not failed to point out that the story of a military expedition to establish by force, and without agreement with the other Powers concerned, a French Protectorate over the region in question, is not only improbable on the face of it, but at variance with all the official declarations which have been made by members of the Government in the Chamber with regard to French policy in general, Morocco in particular. France has interests in that country exceeding those, it is maintained, of any other; but she is proceeding to assert them in consultation with other Governments and with due regard to their legitimate claims, which are not incompatible with French aspirations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 485.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 197.)
Tangier, September 8, 1903.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 186 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to report that through the mediation of some Wazzan Shereefs a temporary truce has been made between the Beni Hassan and the Gharb tribes to enable all the harvesting operations to be concluded, and then negotiations will be renewed to arrange the terms of settlement of their mutual grievances. It is, however, considered probable that there will be further raids later on, unless the Government is able to send troops to maintain order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 486.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 198.)
Tangier, September 10, 1903.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 193 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to report that, having observed in the press statements that the French cruiser "Galilée" had to make use of its guns and fired some eighty shells before the release of the captive sailors could be obtained, I inquired of the French Chargé d'Affaires whether there was any foundation for this report. M. Descos replied that, so far as he was aware, there was no truth in the statement, the Captain of the "Galilée" not having made any mention to him of having fired any shots.

M. Descos added that the Captain had informed him that the Governor of Cape Juby had at first made difficulties, declaring that he had not yet received the Sultan's

* Not printed.

orders for the release of the men, and that subsequently he had allowed them to go to the beach and escape to the boat of the "Galilée," but had not formally handed them over.

On the former occasion when M. Descos told me of these mens' release, I understood him to say that the Governor of Cape Juby had surrendered them in obedience to orders received from the Sultan. He now, however, explained that though the Sultan's orders had been dispatched some time previously, when, in fact, M. Descos was himself still at Fez, they had not apparently reached Cape Juby before the arrival of the "Galilée."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

P.S. *September* 11.—His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mogador reports, in a despatch just received, that he had been informed that the French Consul had stated that shots were fired from the "Galilée" at the time of the captives' escape.

H. E W.

No. 487.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 199.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 12, 1903.

THE British Vice-Consul at Rabat reports that on the 6th instant the French Vice-Consul and the chief of the French Military Mission, accompanied by their families and some friends, were visiting the ruins of Shella a short distance outside that town, where the chief of the Military Mission, who had strolled about a quarter of a mile beyond the walls, was attacked by two mounted and armed Zair tribesmen, who endeavoured to carry him off as their prisoner, knocking him down several times. Some of his companions, who happened to be on the Shella walls, saw what was passing, and fired on the Zair men with their rifles, killing one of the horses. Some guards now appearing the two men decamped, and the Europeans returned to Rabat without further mishap.

The object of the Zair men is believed to have been to capture a European, in exchange for whom they could demand the release of three of their tribe who had that morning been imprisoned by the Governor of Rabat.

The French Vice-Consul has asked for the punishment of these two men, whilst on the other hand the tribe have sent a deputation to the Governor demanding satisfaction for the loss of the horse which was killed, and for the wounding, as they assert, of the rider.

The Zair is a turbulent tribe which even in normal times gives great trouble to Rabat, and their knowledge that they have nothing at present to fear from the Government will render negotiations with them very difficult. The incident is therefore very unfortunate in the present position of affairs, and may lead to troubles in the neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 488.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 200. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 13, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 167 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter addressed by the Sultan to Sir Arthur Nicolson, informing him that he has instructed Kaïd Sir H. Maclean to raise a loan in England of about 1,000,000*l.* for the Moorish Government, and requesting his assistance in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 488.

The Sultan of Morocco to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

"Praise to the one God!"

TO the beloved and wise Counsellor, the honoured Minister of the friendly and powerful British Government at Tangier, Sir Arthur Nicolson: After renewed inquiries after you, and desires that you may always continue in prosperity:

On Kaïd Maclean's request, we have granted him one month's leave of absence in order that he may visit his father in England, and we have instructed him to negotiate a loan on behalf of the Government, borrowing a sum of about 1,000,000*l.*, or nearly that amount, from English banks in the manner customary in business. We inform you of this in order that you may assist him in this, so that he may, by the power of God, soon settle the matter in the best manner; this would be in accordance with the known sincerity of your friendship towards us, and your good counsels and zeal for promoting the welfare of our country.

Sealed the 13th day of Jumada II, in the year 1321 (September 7, 1903).

No. 489.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 201.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 13, 1903.

FROM the reports furnished by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, it appears that the Sultan's position is much as it was at the end of last month: His Majesty still occupies the same camp, and the Pretender remains in the hill country of the Tsul tribe. The negotiations with that tribe, reported in my despatch No 195 of the 6th instant, dragged on for about ten days, during which they were not molested by the Sultan's troops. From despatches just received, however, I learn that further punitive expeditions were sent into their territory on the 7th and 8th instant, more villages being burnt, and plunder and prisoners taken.

I have no recent reliable news of events from Taza, where there is said to be great scarcity of provisions. The Sultan has made arrangements with some 600 Beni Warain tribesmen to escort a convoy of ammunition and specie to the garrison there, and it is possible that communications may again be opened with them through that tribe, who have left hostages in the Sultan's camp as security for their good faith.

Confirmation of the smallness of the force actually with the Pretender has been obtained from a French traveller who, the French Chargé d'Affaires tells me, has just arrived at Tangier after having visited the Pretender's camp in the Tsul mountains about a fortnight ago. He was well received by the Pretender, who sent him back under escort. The Pretender was still suffering from his wounds, and had only a few hundred men with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 490.

Memorandum by Sir A. Nicolson.—(*Received September* 21.)

KAÏD MACLEAN came to see me this morning.

He told me that he was authorized to raise, if possible a loan of 1,000,000*l.* at 6 per cent. interest, the guarantee being the Customs revenues of Daralbaida. In case of default the undertakers of the loan would be permitted to establish a Controller at that place and collect the necessary revenues. He added that he was authorized to offer any concessions, railway, mining, &c., if such were desired, as additional securities for the loan.

In reply to inquiries he stated that he had no official financial statement to give me; but I ascertained from him the following data as to expenditure which make the financial situation even more embarrassing than I had anticipated:—

	£
Annual interest on the three existing loans	54,000
Advances made by Coutts and Co., and to be repaid this year out of customs revenues	120,000
To this should be added a further advance from Coutts, which he hopes to obtain at once	20,000
	194,000

The monthly expenditure on the force in the field for pay, rations, and transport he estimates at about 66,000*l.*, or 792,000*l.* a-year.

Against this could be set as revenue:—

	£
Customs (this is a generous estimate)	350,000
Coinage profits	125,000
Tobacco monopoly	50,000
Gate dues, &c.	25,000
	550,000

The above revenue data are necessarily merely approximate. Should the rebellion continue the deficit would be very large.

The Coutts' loans, so far as I could gather, are practically money advanced by the Bank on securities and deposits held by Kaïd Maclean for the Sultan and also for himself. (N.B.—He tells me he has advanced all his private fortune.) The Kaïd holds bills on the Customs for these advances, which he cashes as opportunities occur.

I have left out of the debit account bills on the Customs which may be held by other foreign creditors for purchases in Europe, &c., and as to which I have no information; and I have also left out all Palace and Administration expenditure.

The only guarantee for a fresh loan would be the Customs revenues, which are already certainly pledged this year for 194,000*l.* out of a possible 350,000*l.*, and are probably pledged for a larger amount. Except for a small loan say of 200,000*l.* or 300,000*l.* I hardly think they can be considered available.

Kaïd Maclean asserts that he has been approached by several people ready to lend money in return for railway or other concessions. So far as I could ascertain these people were Tangier bankers of various nationalities, and who probably promise more than they would be able to fulfil; and also the American, Mr. Langerman, who, if a concession for a railway were granted to him, engages to supply immediately considerable funds. I inclose a Memorandum which he left with Kaïd Maclean.

Kaïd Maclean is sure that if the Sultan fails to obtain money his army will disband; and also that if he fails in England, he would apply to Germany, France, or America.

I pointed out to Kaïd Maclean that as the Customs were already heavily pledged I did not myself see what securities he could offer for a large loan which would satisfy financiers. He dwelt on concessions; but these, even if possible of execution in present circumstances, would not be immediately remunerative. It seemed to me that, putting adventurers and speculators on one side, he would have very serious difficulty in finding substantial and serious men disposed to advance any considerable sums.

Kaïd Maclean wished to impress on me that money was the only thing wanting to completely re-establish order and the Sultan's authority throughout the country; that His Majesty had no money; that if he could not procure assistance in England he would definitely cut himself loose from us; that anything which English financiers or commercial houses required in the shape of railway or other concessions would be at once granted; and that the commercial development of Morocco was now in our hands, and that if we declined to undertake it the task and the profits would fall to others.

Kaïd Maclean is further convinced that the rebellion and agitation are practically overcome; that very shortly peace and plenty will reign in Morocco, and that prosperity will so rapidly advance that those who now assist the Sultan will be repaid tenfold. This refrain has been sung to me for months past; but I fear facts are hardly in unison with it.

Kaïd Maclean will not approach any financiers until he hears from me. The

Sultan (see Mr. White's despatch No. 200) has written direct to me asking me to assist Maclean in his loan negotiations.

An absolute refusal to assist might be injudicious at the present juncture.

I would, therefore, propose that Maclean be informed no objection is seen to his negotiating for a loan of 200,000*l.*, at 6 per cent. interest, and that when I return to Tangier.

I should reply to the Sultan's letter by saying that his letter reached me but a very few days prior to my departure, and I had, therefore, no time to go fully into the matter with competent people; that I was afraid that the sum he had mentioned would be difficult to obtain, but that probably a smaller amount would be procurable.

I would, of course, add polite and friendly expressions.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

September 20, 1903.

Annex.

Memorandum by Mr. J. W. S. Langerman.

Granting of a Concession to build Railroads, including necessary Bridges, Stations, &c.

Conditions.

1. Railroad not to be built before three years.
2. Emperor not to be held responsible for any acts of violence or destruction of property by any Moorish subjects.
3. Twenty-five per cent. of net profits of railroad to be paid Emperor for period of ninety-nine years. After which time railroad to become property of Emperor or his heirs, or for privilege of operating and owning railroad for another ninety-nine years, 50,000,000 dollars American money to be paid Emperor or his heirs.
4. To guard against European interference, this is to be an American Company, formed under the laws of the United States' Government, and to protect against whomsoever, for the time of privilege or ninety-nine years.
5. To grant necessary strip of land on each side of railroad where it will be built, not to exceed 100 yards, and to extend from start to terminus. Also land required to build stations, not to exceed 500 square yards.
6. Being understood all these enjoying same protection, being part of the American Company.
7. All Moorish Government officials and Army shall be transported free.
8. If other contract necessary to conform with laws of United States' Government, Emperor willing to sign new Agreement covering same points.

No. 491.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 22.)

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 22, 1903.

I AM informed by M. Descos, the French Chargé d'Affaires here, that the garrison of Ujda have attacked and dispersed a considerable force of rebels, taking a number of prisoners at the same time.

These rebel tribesmen had taken up a position quite close to that place.

No. 492.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 22.)

(No. 171.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 22, 1903.

A CORRESPONDENT of Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod's in the Sultan's camp has informed him that the troops which remained at Taza have been ordered to join His Majesty and evacuate that place. His Majesty is having a fort constructed close to to his camp.

On the 16th September, the convoy (which was mentioned in my despatch No. 201 of the 13th instant) came into the camp escorted by some 3,000 Beni Warain tribesmen; it having been unable to reach Taza, which was its original destination.

No. 493.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 24.)

(No. 498. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, September* 23, 1903

THE Italian Ambassador here mentioned to me yesterday the rumours which have been current during the last few days as to the intention of the French Government to undertake military operations on a considerable scale for the purpose of putting an end to the incursions and attacks made by the unsettled tribes in south-western Algeria.

Count Tornielli said that he called them "unsettled" rather than "nomad," because the latter appellation did not aptly suit them. The epithet of which he made use ("flottantes") he employed because they were the inhabitants of a region where the exigencies of self-preservation kept the people constantly in movement; and he observed that the prospect of any amelioration of the situation was not encouraging, as starvation is constantly threatening the natives who can only live by pillaging the French caravans; and these caravans can only be sent in small detachments.

My colleague said that, in his opinion, the question was a very serious one for the French; that action of some kind they must take, and that it was impossible to calculate into what difficulties they might be led. It was evident that it would be the height of impolicy, even with the consent of England and Spain, for the French to initiate any undertaking which would commit them to serious operations against Morocco; and therefore he did not for one moment attach any credence to the stories put about by M. Jaurès of a deliberate plan to establish a Protectorate over the country at this moment. Still, something would have to be done by the French, and he could not but repeat that the situation seemed to be full of difficulties for them.

I told my colleague that in this I quite agreed with him; but that when he talked of France's taking action with the consent of England and Spain, I was bound to say that, as far as I knew, it would be very premature to assume that any such understanding had been established.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 494.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 25.)

(No. 172.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 25, 1903.

THE following has been sent me by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez:—

"There being no money left, the Moorish Government is now paying workmen and soldiers by notes of hand instead of cash.

"The Sultan wishes, apparently, to make an attack on rebels, and is concentrating all available forces, the garrison remaining at Fez having been commanded to join His Majesty.

"All Christians in the Sultan's service were requested to leave Fez a few days since, and the same request has now been made to all the other Christians in that town with the exception of the Consular officers."

No. 495.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 204.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 20, 1903.

A SHEREEFIAN letter was read in the mosque yesterday afternoon, in which the Sultan informed the people that he was successfully punishing the rebels, who were making their submission. The optimistic view which His Majesty affects to take of the situation does not seem to be justified by the course of events in the rebellious districts, where His Majesty's expedition has made no progress since I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 201 of the 13th instant.

I have received news from Fez up to the evening of the 17th instant, and the general situation seems much the same as it was. No further punitive expeditions have been dispatched against the rebel tribes, so far as I can learn; deputations have, as usual, come into the Sultan's camp to ask for terms, but with no more apparent result than on former occasions. In the meantime the convoy of specie and ammunition for Taza under the charge of some Beni Warain tribesmen has been attacked and, though safe, was unable to proceed.

At Taza prices of provisions have continued to rise, and numerous desertions are reported, as also from Kasbah M'sun. Both garrisons have, however, been able to hold their own against the rebels, who after suffering somewhat severely in an unsuccessful attack on Taza on the 8th instant, were ordered by the Pretender to join his camp, leaving merely a sufficient force to prevent provisions reaching the garrison.

The Pretender, who is said to be ill as well as still suffering from his wound, is encamped near Ain Addis in mid Tsul, about 16 miles, by a somewhat circuitous road, from the Sultan's position. His camp consists of only about 100 tents, and he has with him some 270 mounted men and not more than 3,000 foot, with four or five guns. His remaining cavalry have been sent on various expeditions. He always keeps three swift Sahara dromedaries ready saddled and bridled at his tent for escape in an emergency.

His position is practically impregnable, being on the top of a high and precipitous hill, surrounded by very rugged and difficult country, in which it would be nearly impossible for cavalry to operate.

The district is comparatively thickly populated, there being many villages with olive groves, vineyards, and orchards. Meat, oil, and some provisions are plentiful, but corn is becoming scarce.

The French Chargé d'Affaires informs me that some rebel tribes have collected near Ujda, where Rekina remains with the remnants of his force.

The proximity of the rebels makes the garrison nervous, but M. Descos does not anticipate any disturbances in that region, as the rebels would be unable to take possession of the town.

In the Riff the situation remains the same, though there has been some unimportant fighting amongst various factions.

Reports from other parts of Morocco may be considered satisfactory up to the present time, but the dangerous season is approaching, when the people are idle after the harvest. Should there be good and early rains, so that ploughing can begin, it is probable that the tribes in the plains will remain quiet, otherwise there may be disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 496.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 27.)

(No. 173.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 27, 1903.

WITH reference to my two despatches Nos. 202 and 205 of the 18th and 20th instant respectively.

I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Major Ogilvy arrived here last

night, together with the four English non-commissioned officers. The arrival is shortly expected of the other foreign officers in the Sultan's service.

The two new cavalry instructors are to remain here with Major Ogilvy until His Majesty requires them to return to Fez, but the two sergeant drummers are leaving for England to-morrow.

No. 497.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 175.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, September 30, 1903.

A TELEGRAM was received last night by the Legation Bankers from Aflalo, their London Agent, to the effect that a house in Paris (whose name is not mentioned) is prepared to make a loan of 300,000*l.* to the Moorish Government on the same terms as on previous occasions.

In order to conclude the affair, a special courier has consequently been sent to Fez by the Legation Bankers to ask that the documents, which are required, should be sent down here.

No. 498.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 1.)

(No. 176.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, October 1, 1903.

THE following has been received from Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod at Fez.

His Majesty's troops are encountering Tsul tribes every day, but with inconclusive results. A wall has been built, which incloses the entrenched camp of the Sultan. Communications with Taza are open, and His Majesty has still a garrison there.

With the exception of some missionary ladies and the Consular officers, all Europeans have now left Fez for Tangier. The former place is wholly denuded of troops. This is somewhat unfortunate as provisions there and in the neighbourhood are at famine prices, and troubles may ensue.

No. 499.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 6.)

(No. 15. Commercial.)
My Lord,

Tangier, September 23, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that the various Moorish ports have been recently visited by the French steamer "Triton," which had been specially chartered for that purpose by the Oran Chamber of Commerce.

On board the steamer were representatives of commercial houses in Algeria, who brought samples of goods considered suitable for the Moorish market, and took away samples of goods at present in demand in this country.

Great activity is being displayed at Oran in developing their trade with Morocco, and a number of artisan and tradespeople from that place are establishing themselves here. The movement is, I am told by the French Chargé d'Affaires, fostered by M. Etienne, who is Deputy for Oran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 500.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 6.)

(No. 206.)
My Lord,

Tangier, September 24, 1903.

THE local press having reported further attacks on French convoys since the serious incident at El Mongar, I inquired of the French Chargé d'Affaires whether there was any truth in the report.

M. Descos, after answering my question in the negative, proceeded to speak of the general question of the attacks. He stated that the French Government regarded these incidents inevitable under the circumstances, and did not propose to take any steps to punish the aggressors, as they came from a distance, and to punish them would probably entail an expedition to the neighbourhood of Tafilet. Every endeavour was accordingly being made to calm public opinion in France on the subject.

M. Descos added that it was intended to establish a camel corps so as to furnish efficient escorts for these convoys, but that it was to the railway that they really looked for putting an end to these attacks; the work of extending the line to Tuat would therefore be pushed forward as fast as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 501.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 6.)

(No. 207.)
My Lord,

Tangier, September 26, 1903.

I REGRET to report that, as I anticipated in the concluding paragraph of my despatch No. 197 of the 8th instant, the truce between the Beni-Hassen and Gharb tribes has not been of long duration, the former, in conjunction with Zimmur tribesmen, having again lately made several raids into the Gharb district.

The road between Tangier and Fez is consequently no longer safe, couriers and muleteers being robbed. A caravan with arms and ammunition for the Sultan's camp was stopped, the loads being taken possession of and the animals and drivers being sent back unharmed. It is supposed that the Gharb have determined to stop all supplies from going up to Fez, with a view to forcing the hand of the Government and making them send troops, which would protect them against the attacks of the Zimmur and Beni-Hassen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 502.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 6.)

(No. 209.)
My Lord,

Tangier, September 27, 1903.

THE news received from Fez during the last few days seems to indicate that the Sultan has determined to concentrate all his available troops with a view to making an attack in force on the Tsul, Ghiata, and Branes tribes, and dislodging the Pretender from his stronghold in the Tsul Mountains. His Majesty apparently intends to remain for some time in his present position, as he is having a deep trench dug round the camp, and is building one, or according to some accounts two, forts in that neighbourhood. His Majesty's force has been increased by the whole of the troops—about 1,000 men—which had been left at Fez, and by the arrival of about 3,000 men of the Beni Warain tribe, who brought back to camp the specie and ammunition, which some of their number had undertaken to deliver at Taza, an undertaking which proved to be beyond their powers.

It was reported in camp on the 15th instant that the Sultan had dispatched a courier with orders for the evacuation of Taza and Kasbah M'sun, and for their

garrisons to join His Majesty. If this is true, and if the garrisons succeed in getting safely through the rebel country to the Sultan's camp, they will be a useful addition to the forces with His Majesty, as they are picked troops. From all accounts, however, their numbers have been considerably diminished lately by desertions.

The evacuation of Taza and Kasbah M'sun would have a damaging effect on the Sultan's prestige unless it were immediately followed by some signal success against the rebel tribes, and the past conduct of the campaign does not lead one to expect any such vigorous action as would have decisive results.

The only action taken during the week by the Sultan's troops, so far as I can learn, was an incursion into a part of Tsul territory, which was found deserted, and an unsuccessful expedition against the Ghiata tribe.

In the meantime the officials at Fez are destitute of money, and are making their payments by notes of hand. This system could not be continued for long, as discontent would certainly arise if the notes were not redeemed within a reasonable time.

A cause for some anxiety at Fez is the very high prices now ruling in that city, wheat and provisions generally being at famine prices, though this is the season when they should be cheapest. This will probably increase the discontent against the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 503.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Zarauz, October 6, 1903.

YESTERDAY evening I saw the Foreign Minister who had asked me to call upon him. He said the proceedings of the French in Morocco were causing him serious concern. He was in possession of trustworthy information that a column of considerable strength had been prepared by them and was facing Ujda. While the French Government affirmed that they had no design of conquering the country, a protectorate was being advocated both by the press and by the politicians. Some hitch had occurred in the negotiations proceeding between Spain and France, as the French Ambassador had not called upon him for a month. He told me he mistrusted the Cambons and their friends, who were, he thought, misleading M. Delcassé. Spain could not agree to France establishing a protectorate over the whole of Morocco without consideration for Spanish rights and interests. Spain appears to desire a zone of influence which will include Fez.

The Foreign Minister's view is that France is attempting to prevent Spain and England from making any move by cajoling them with sham proposals, while she proceeds to establish her position. He spoke strongly.

No. 504.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 210.)
My Lord,

Tangier, September 30, 1903.

M. PARIENTE, one of the Legation bankers, called on me this morning and stated that he had last night received a telegram from his friends in London to the effect that a Paris house, whose name had not been given, was prepared to advance the money which the Moorish Government required, and that he had consequently dispatched a special courier to Fez, requesting that the necessary documents should be sent to Tangier for signature.

I asked M. Pariente what was the amount of the proposed loan, and what securities had been offered for payment of interest. He said that the loan was for 300,000*l.*, and that the conditions were exactly similar to those attached to the three

loans which had been previously contracted. The securities would be the customs revenues. M. Pariente was unwilling to give the name of his "friend" in London, but I have since ascertained that he is a M. Aflalo, a gentleman who has been for many years interested in Moorish affairs, and who was for some time an unofficial agent in England of the late Grand Vizier. He is not in favour with Court circles at present, and his participation in this matter is, therefore, not avowed.

M. Pariente promised to let me know the name of the Paris house as soon as he was made acquainted with. I am unaware of the position M. Aflalo may hold in financial circles in London and Paris, and until some further information is forthcoming it would be premature to express an opinion as to whether the undertaking is a sound and serious one. The Moorish Government are in such straits for money that it is possible that they would not take great pains to ascertain whether or not they were dealing with substantial establishments. Their chief concern is to obtain funds without paying much heed to the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 505.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 211.)
My Lord,

Tangier, October 2, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch, with its inclosure, which has been received from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, reporting the events which have occurred at the Sultan's camp from the 17th to the 24th ultimo.

As reported in Mr. White's despatch No. 207 of the 26th ultimo, the road between Tangier and Fez continues to be unsafe, and I am informed that a caravan proceeding with specie to the capital has been compelled to halt at Alcazar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 505.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Mr. White.

(No. 129.)
Sir,

Fez, September 27, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translations I have received from my correspondent in the Sultan's camp, giving the news there up to the evening of the 24th instant. The fighting detailed in the letters appears, while equally inconclusive, to have been somewhat more obstinate than usual.

I have been told by one of the retainers of the Minister of War, who was present on the occasion, that Sid Menebhi had the shoulder of his cloak pierced by a bullet in one of the recent attacks on Tsul, but was not (as was currently reported here) wounded.

During the last few days the following Europeans, in compliance with the Sultan's orders for all Europeans except the Consuls to leave Fez, have departed for Tangier:—

The French Military Mission (except Dr. Jaffary).
The Italian Military Mission.
The Spanish gardener and his wife at the Court.
A German engineer.
English engineers, Messrs. Mowat and Portway.
Mr. Bale, farrier.
Military Instructors: Mr. Nevil de Verdon, Major Ogilvy.
D.S.O. Sergeants Wrigley, Offen, and Higgins.

A caravan of 127 mule loads of cartridges and twenty-four mule loads of specie left Fez yesterday for the Sultan's camp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

P.S.—Kaid Omar Ai Yusi arrived here from the Sultan's camp two days ago, and has left for Sefroo to deal with some local disturbances there.

J. M. M.

Inclosure 2 in No. 505.

Letters from usual Correspondent in Sultan's Camp to Mr. Macleod.

(Translation.)

Thursday, September 17, 1903.—The Sultan's troops attacked the Ghiata (this attack was apparently against the Ghiata of the comparatively flat tract west of the Sultan's camp) and burned their houses and killed twenty-four of them and wounded a great many. Other Ghiata then reinforced them.

Of the Sultan's troops there were killed :—

4 Zimmur, 2 Beni Warain, 3 Hiayna, 1 Beni Mtir, and 2 Abda, total, 12 in all killed, and there were 15 wounded. Amongst the latter Kaid El-Arbi-al-Hilati Ed Dukalli. The fight lasted three and a-half hours, and was wholly between horsemen. The Beni Warain had many horses killed in this fight.

Friday, September 18.—The Ghiata were eager to avenge their defeat of yesterday, and news arrived by a special courier that they meant to attack the Sultan's camp during the night.

The Fki Menebhi therefore ordered a trench to be dug round the Sultan's own part of the camp.

During the day masons and carpenters arrived and began to build a wall round the whole camp; and with axes and petroleum the cutting and burning of the Tsul peoples' trees was continued.

Saturday, September 19.—The Sultan having sent supplies to Taza, namely, 30,000 dollars in gold (sent, as on previous occasion, in the saddle-bags of horsemen), they were duly delivered and receipts were brought in to-day. The bearers of the receipts state that Hadj Madani (this is Hadj Madani Shingiti, a well-known and influential Shereef, a steady and useful adherent of the Sultan since the very beginning of the rebellion. He is referred to in several of my despatches last spring) buys whatever the garrison there requires, and delivers it to them. And all was well with the garrison.

Sunday, September 20.—The trench round the Sultan's own tents was begun and finished during the day, and the building of the wall round the whole of the camp was continued.

We were told by some people that the Tsul had been alarmed on hearing of the building of the wall, and intended to attack the camp by night. So the whole camp passed the night awake, and ready for what might happen.

Monday, September 21.—The Sultan sent the Beni Warain (presumably numbering 2,000 to 3,000) home after giving them arms, and arranged with them to attack Ghiata on the side next to them.

The Hiayna and Zimmur contingents were sent to cut down the Tsul peoples' trees. On their doing so the Tsul fired on them, and continued firing until about 3·30 P.M. While this was in progress the building of the wall round the camp was continued until it completely surrounded the camp. It should be finished in ten days or so.

Tuesday, September 22.—The Hiayna and Zimmur contingents attacked Tsul, and the fighting continued until 3·30 P.M. Thereafter many of the Tsul followed the raiders back to camp, and continued firing on the camp until about 8 P.M., and six of them were caught by the troops.

The Kaid of the night guard, Said Al Farji, in fear fled from his post during the night. (It is said, whether truly or not I do not yet know, that Sid Menebhi had this man flogged and his beard shaved off.)

Wednesday, September 23.—The Hiayna contingent attacked their fellow tribesmen of Iskhel, the Beni Mtir division of them taking their sheep, cattle, and

animals, and sixteen men prisoners, for some of their kinsmen being with the Pretender.

Thursday, September 24.—The Sultan's troops attacked Tsul in four directions. The horse of Mulai Taib-al-Wazzani (this is is a well-known Shereef of Zimmur, who has great influence over that region. It is he who has always been the intermediary between the Sultan and the Zimmur, and he it was who had brought up the Zimmur contingents from time to time) was killed. And there were killed 4 Zimmur, 3 Hiayna, 2 Beni Hassan, 4 Diara (Marrakeah), 4 Honaba infantrymen, total, 17 in all, and about 12 wounded.

No. 506.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 212.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 2, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a letter addressed to Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod by the Acting Governor of Fez, requesting that all foreigners, with the exception of Consuls, should leave for Tangier.

I understand that most of the Europeans at Fez have already given effect to this request of the Moorish Government and have left the capital. Three missionary ladies desire to remain at Fez, and I gather that Mr. Macleod does not consider that there is any immediate necessity for them to leave, though he has warned them that they should be ready to do so at short notice. The Acting Governor of Fez was in doubt as to whether these ladies were included in the general order, as they have been for some time resident in Fez, and were in a different category from the other Europeans. He has written to the Sultan's camp in regard to their case.

The French military doctor has also remained at Fez, as he has some serious medical cases in the Sultan's household which require his attention. The German commercial gentlemen are awaiting instructions from their Legation, as they assert that they will suffer financially were they suddenly to abandon the interests of their charge. They therefore consider that they are entitled to some compensation before taking their departure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 506.

Acting Governor of Fez to Vice-Consul Macleod.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

OUR Lord the Sultan—God honours him!—has issued his Shereefian order for the departure of foreigners in this city, except the Consuls, (namely) those employed at the Shereefian Court, and travellers and others, and their going to the town of Tangier, this being considered advisable until the Sultan—God honour him!—comes back to this city and orders—God assist him!—their return. And therefore we request you to order those of the aforesaid (foreigners) in this city to leave for the said town, conformably with the Shereefian order—God honour it!

No. 507.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 529.)

My Lord, *Paris, October* 9, 1903.

A DISCUSSION took place this morning at the Council, presided over by M. Loubet, upon the situation in South-West Algeria.

The following is the semi-official communiqué published on this subject:—

"As regards Morocco, about which M. Delcassé produced the latest despatches received by him, the Government perseveres in the policy which has been expounded

both in the Senate and in the Chamber. This policy remains absolutely distinct from the policing ('la police') of the south-west portion of Oran.

"On the demand of the Minister of War the Council decided that two companies of mounted infantry shall be formed, with the view of protecting the Province of Oran against the incursions of troops provided with an armed equipment equivalent to that of the national army, against which the Saharan companies are insufficiently armed."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 508.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 178.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, October 10, 1903.

WITH regard to the proposed loan in Paris to the Moorish Government, and with reference to my telegram No. 175 of the 30th ultimo.

I am informed by the Legation bankers that their London friend is in Paris and at present negotiating with a nephew of Midhat Pasha, who is a Turkish subject, and thinks funds are obtainable. The affair, which appears to be of a dubious character, will, I think, come to nothing. The information supplied to the Legation bankers by their above-mentioned friend, to the effect that money was ready in Paris, is, they find, premature, and they have again written to Fez to ask that nothing be done on their first letter for the moment. They are unaware of the names of the houses with whom the Turk is negotiating, and they do not know what conditions he will be likely to offer.

No. 509.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 213.)
My Lord,

Tangier, October 6, 1903.

THE Sultan's Deputy recently addressed a note to the Diplomatic Body requesting that instructions should be sent to the several Consuls at Rabat, requiring that neither they nor any other foreign subjects should take any excursions outside of the town, as the Governor declined all responsibility for what might occur.

My colleagues and myself considered that the proposed measure was an unnecessarily drastic one, and that it would be a great hardship to confine all Europeans within the walls of that town. Moreover, it seemed to us that the local authorities could not divest themselves of all responsibility, and decline to take any measures for the preservation of order and security in the immediate environs of Rabat.

We therefore informed Hadj Mohammed Torres of our views in this matter, and requested him to send instructions to the Governor to take all the proper measures for maintaining order in the town and its environs.

At the same time we have warned the respective Consuls to be prudent in their excursions outside the town, and have requested them to privately intimate to their nationals that it would be wise if they were cautious in their movements outside of the town walls.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 510.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 215.)
My Lord,

Tangier, October 8, 1903.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 200 of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the reply which I have sent to the latter which the Sultan was good enough to address to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 510.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Sultan of Morocco.

(After compliments.)

Tangier, October 8, 1903.

I TRUST that your Majesty will forgive me for having delayed in replying to your gracious letter, but I was awaiting the return from England of the Interpreter of the Legation, and there was no one else to whom I could entrust the Translation.

Your Majesty's communication reached me by the hands of Kaid Maclean, but a few days after I myself left England; and I had not, therefore, the time to go fully into the question, on which your Majesty was graciously pleased to write to me, with those who are competent to deal with such matters. I was able to have some conversation with Kaid Maclean, and I trust that he may be able, with his zeal and loyalty to your Majesty's service, to come to some satisfactory arrangement. I think, however, that it will be difficult in the present condition of the money markets, and owing to the numerous calls which are being made on financial houses from many quarters, for Kaid Maclean to obtain all the sum your Majesty mentioned; but I hope he may succeed in procuring an amount sufficient to meet pressing requirements.

I trust your Majesty will permit me to express my grateful appreciation of the gracious kindness which prompted your Majesty to write direct to me, and I am deeply sensible of the confidence your Majesty has been pleased to place in me. My earnest desire is that your Majesty will continue to enjoy good health, and that the troubles which are at present existing will soon disappear, and that peace will be firmly established in your Majesty's dominions. I pray that all prosperity may attend your Majesty, and that your life may be a prolonged and a happy one.

No. 511.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 216.)
My Lord,

Tangier, October 10, 1903.

THE reports which I have received from Fez during the past week would show that the situation in the Taza district has practically undergone no change, beyond that there has been a certain reduction in the prices of provisions both at Fez and in the Sultan's camp. The road between Tangier and Fez has in some places again been infested by marauders, under the brigand Chief Reissouli, who recently raided a considerable herd of cattle on its way to the Tangier market, killed two or three people, and seriously wounded a courier with Government despatches who happened to be passing at the moment.

A small party of soldiers who were proceeding from Tangier to Tetuan were attacked by some Wadras tribesmen, and five of their number were killed. The authorities have taken no measures to punish the authors of these misdeeds, which are reviving a feeling of uneasiness, and will hamper the conveyance of supplies for the Tangier market.

The Spanish Minister informed me that the authorities at Melilla had telegraphed

to him that the dissensions among the Riff tribes appeared to have been appeased, and that the Pretender had appointed the Chiefs of the rival factions as Governor of the district adjoining Melilla and as head of the Customs Administration respectively. These steps are evidence that the Riff tribes, if disposed to acknowledge any authority at all, are ready to look to the Pretender rather than to the Sultan.

There have been some minor and passing troubles in the southern provinces, but these were merely local, and the aspect in those quarters is peaceful. This is satisfactory so far as it goes, but it would be unnecessary for the populations there to become restless, as for two years they have not been called upon to pay any imposts, and are practically free from Government control. In these circumstances, it would be strange were they not to tranquilly enjoy a period of unprecedented liberty, but it is doubtful whether they would willingly consent to a re-establishment of Government authority, or respond without demur to a demand for contributions to the Government Treasury.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 512.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 218.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October 10, 1903.*

I INQUIRED of M. Pariente this morning what progress had been made in the matter of the proposed Moorish loan which he had informed me had been negotiated in Paris; and whether he had received the documents he was expecting from Fez.

M. Pariente said that he feared that M. Aflalo, his friend in London, had been a little premature in telegraphing that the required funds were at the disposal of the Moorish Government, as he now had ascertained that the question of the loan was only in its initial stages. M. Aflalo had written to say that a Turkish subject, a nephew of the late Midhat Pasha, and resident in Paris, had expressed his willingness to procure loan, and that he himself was proceeding to Paris to discuss terms and conditions with that gentleman. Since then M. Pariente had merely received a telegram announcing the arrival of M. Aflalo in Paris, and he was still ignorant as to what conditions were likely to be offered or what French houses were interested in the matter. In these circumstances he had written to the Moorish Minister of Finance explaining that there would be some delay in concluding the negotiations in Paris, and that he would communicate with him further on the subject. M. Pariente confessed to me that he doubted if any conclusion would be reached in the matter.

The scheme appears to be a very hazy and doubtful one; and it is difficult to conceive that M. Aflalo and an Ottoman refugee are likely to induce any serious Paris firm to lend money to the Moorish Government. I therefore quite agree with M. Pariente that the conclusion of a loan through the above channels is very problematical.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 513.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 219.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October 12, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 150 of the 7th July last, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a further despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mogador, with regard to the rescue of M. Lebaudy's sailors at Cape Juby.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 513.

Vice-Consul Madden to Mr. White.

(No. 38. Confidential.)
Sir, *Mogador, October 3, 1903.*

KAID AYAD BEN HAMIDA MINEBHI, Governor of Mogador, communicated to me to-day the account his Excellency had received from the Khalifa in this town of the Sahara Sheikh "Ma-el-Ain," of the recent action of the French cruiser "Galilee," when the rescue of the five French sailors of the Lebaudy expedition was effected.

From what Kaid Ayad said (which he requested me to consider as confidential between us), the cruiser communicated with the Arabs, who were told that a Sultan's letter was on board ordering the delivery up of the sailors to the cruiser. The Arabs replied that they were ready to deliver them up, but they must first read the letter. They were told it would be given them, and meantime the vessel wished some provisions to be sent to the Christians, which the Arabs took over and delivered as requested; and the cruiser's people further said they desired to have some festivities, such as firing rockets, while they were there, so as to make the visit a pleasant one, which was agreed to. Afterwards a small boat left the cruiser and was apparently fishing, when suddenly the rockets were fired, and the sailors, who were only guarded by three Arabs, and who were in some huts about a mile south of Cape Juby Medina, went off towards the sea and the boat pulled in shore. Instantly the Arabs saw the sailors leaving they rushed down to stop them, when the cruiser's guns fired, scattering them in all directions from fright. The men were taken off and the cruiser left.

The Arabs say that the letter arranging this affair was found by the sailors in the food sent off to them by the vessel.

Kaid Ayad added that the Arabs are greatly incensed at the whole affair, especially as they refused the ransom previously offered for the sailors, as reported in my despatch No. 21 of the 1st July last. In fact, his Excellency added that it means death to any Frenchman these people get hold of another time.

It has been asserted in some quarters that the whole affair of the rescue of the sailors was a got-up one between the Kaid of Cape Juby Medina and the cruiser, the Kaid delivering the men up and agreeing to plead *force majeure* of the cruiser's guns to protect himself from acting without instructions. The above report is contrary to this assertion, however.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARCHIBALD M. MADDEN.

P.S.—I find that in my previous Reports on this matter I omitted to state th according to the Moorish account of the first capture of the sailors, the five Frenchmen surrendered to four Arabs.

A. M. M.

No. 514.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 179.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October 19, 1903.*

IT appears that His Majesty the Sultan intends returning to Fez at once, according to the despatches I have received from that place.

An apparently severe check was experienced by His Majesty's troops on the 12th October, full details of which are not yet to hand.

His Majesty was much displeased at the refusal of several contingents to take part in the action at which he himself was present.

The Minister of War insists upon returning with His Majesty and the other Ministers to Fez (if they do so), and declines to remain behind in command of the army, which is, it is said, the wish of the other Ministers.

No. 515.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 526. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 21, 1903.

IN the course of my conversation with the French Ambassador this afternoon, recorded in my immediately preceding despatch, I took the opportunity of asking his Excellency whether he had any suggestions to make as to the manner in which the immediate financial difficulties of the Moorish Government might be dealt with.

It seemed to me, I said, that, unless something could be done to relieve their most pressing necessities, we might find ourselves prematurely confronted with the collapse of the Sultan's Government, and a "liquidation" which neither of us desired to precipitate. I had no authority to make any proposals on this subject, but I should like to know what M. Cambon thought of the idea of a further advance by the British and French Governments upon some such lines as those which had been followed in the case of the loans made by British and French financial houses last spring.

His Excellency promised to consider the matter, and to communicate with me in regard to it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 516.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 22.)

(No. 180.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, October 22, 1903.

THERE is certainly no improvement in the situation.

According to information up to the 18th instant, which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod, at Fez, the report of the severe repulse and precipitate retreat of the Government forces on the 12th October is confirmed, and two guns, it is said, were left behind.

The intended attempt to relieve the Taza garrison seems to have been abandoned by His Majesty. Provisions are very dear and scarce there, while here it is reported, but confirmation is lacking, that the garrison there has capitulated to the Pretender

The rebel tribes in the vicinity of Sultan's camp are reported to have mutually agreed by a solemn engagement to continue hostilities.

No. 517.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 25.)

(No. 182.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, October 25, 1903.

WITH reference to the proposed loan in Paris to the Moorish Government.

I am informed by the Legation Bankers that an offer to consider the question of a loan has been made by a French firm, Brocardt by name, and the terms are the following: The customs as security, 6 per cent. interest on 7½ million (issued at 88), and the repayment to begin after ten years have expired.

The Moorish Government would, according to this arrangement, pay for 6,600,000 fr. cash rather more than 7 per cent. interest.

Customs Commissioner here states that the Moorish Government may be inclined to accept any terms, as they are so pressed for money, and the proposition is being sent to Fez. If the guarantees are sufficient, and the reply is satisfactory, it is probable that an attempt will be made to float the loan in the open market, as (I am told by Legation Bankers) the French firm is a small one.

No. 518.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 27.)

(No. 183.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, October 27, 1903.

ON the 24th October, at Fez, a letter from His Majesty the Sultan was publicly read, which stated that the Taza garrison had orders to march to Oojdah, and that on the 20th October they had left Taza for that place; it also stated that the punishment of the insurgents would be resumed in the spring, and that His Majesty was taking up his winter quarters in Fez at once.

The return of the Sultan seems to be regarded by the population of Fez with indifference. His Majesty should be there by now.

The followers of Pretender are reported to be active in the direction of Oojdah, and also to the north and north-west of Fez. His Majesty's troops will probably encounter opposition during their march from Taza to Oojdah.

No. 519.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 184.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, October 29, 1903.

WITH reference to the proposed loans to the Moorish Government.

In my Memorandum of the 20th September I mentioned the presence here of a certain American. This gentleman left for America this week, and I have heard from several quarters that the Moorish Government has authorized him to raise a loan in the United States. The above has not yet been confirmed.

Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, too, it is said, has obtained a loan of 1,000,000*l.* in London. Is this report true? Yesterday, during a conversation with the French Chargé d'Affaires, I was asked by him with regard to this, but I informed him that I had no information from London concerning the matter.

No. 520.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 48.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 29, 1903.

MOORISH loan.

With reference to your telegram No. 184 of to-day, Kaïd Maclean has not yet been able to arrange any loan.

I hope, however, to succeed in obtaining a second advance of 300,000*l.*, which sum the French Government will also, in all probability, be ready to advance.

No. 521.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 224.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 24, 1903.

THE more recent despatches I have received from Fez confirm, I regret to say, the previous news I reported to your Lordship of a serious repulse to the Sulan's forces. The retreat of His Majesty's troops was so precipitate that two Maxim guns were abandoned and the Sultan himself was for a time left almost unattended.

Mishaps of a similar character, varying in scale, have frequently occurred during the course of the campaign without producing any serious consequences. In the present instance I would venture to remark that there are certain elements which give some gravity to the reverse and which are discouraging for the immediate future.

The recent attack on the rebels was conducted with some formality and considerable

preparation. The Sultan himself had previously endeavoured by spirited addresses to stimulate the fidelity and zeal of his followers, and he had been, to Moorish ideas, lavish in his pay and largesses. His Majesty took the field in person, and on the field urged his troops to attack the enemy, but without success. Further, it is clear that the assertions of the Government that many of the rebels were ready to proffer submission are unfounded, as the latter appeared in numbers and in a resolute attitude, and drove the Sultan's forces back to the camp. From information which I have since received, the rebels, two nights later, made an attack on the camp itself, but apparently not in a very determined manner. They have, since the reverse of the 12th, held a meeting and solemnly engaged among each other to continue hostilities, if necessary, for three years. I mention these details to show that the presence of the Sultan during three months in the neighbourhood of the insurgents, and the free distribution of presents and promises among the tribes who were considered to be wavering, have not, in any sensible degree, weakened the determination of the rebels not to submit to the rule of the Moorish Government.

The Sultan states that he is very shortly returning to Fez. I think this would be a wise measure; and indeed, it would be prudent to withdraw and disband the tribal levies until the spring. The rainy season, now overdue, must shortly arrive, and the communication between Fez and the camp, though but ten hours' journey, will be practically impossible for large convoys. It is with great difficulty and great expense that the camp is even now kept supplied, and the prices of provisions are enormously high. Moreover, I am told the sanitary condition of the camp may soon produce a serious epidemic. The heavy expenditure, the evident disinclination of a large portion of the Government forces to actively take the offensive, the approaching difficulty of keeping the troops supplied with necessaries, and the somewhat undignified position in which the Sultan is placed, all these reasons, I submit, render it advisable for His Majesty to take up winter quarters in the capital. It is hardly probable that Fez itself would be really menaced; and the return to their homes of the tribal levies, who are of but little use as fighting material and are a heavy drain on the treasury, would alleviate one of the most pressing difficulties of the situation. It would be well to face the fact that the object of the Sultan's expedition has for the moment failed, and that there is, so far as can be seen, no immediate prospect of retrieving the situation.

No news, except what has been gathered from a few fugitives has been of late received from Taza, where there is a garrison of some 3,000 men. Reports are current, but are mere bazaar rumours, that the town has been evacuated and that the garrison has capitulated. This may or may not be true; but from all I hear the garrison there must be exceedingly hard pressed for food.

I think I have given your Lordship a fairly accurate account of how matters stand in the field of the campaign, and I much regret that it is so unsatisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 522.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 225.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 25, 1903.

M. PARIENTE, the Legation banker, informed me this morning that MM. Brocardt, a French house in Paris, who had been in communication with his partner, M. Abensur, and M. Aflalo, had stated that they were prepared to have certain terms submitted to the Sultan on which a loan might possibly be raised. MM. Brocardt were careful to explain that, in submitting the terms, they in nowise bound themselves to carry out the undertaking, even if the reply of the Moorish Government were satisfactory. All they engaged to do was to examine this reply when it reached them, and if it were satisfactory, and if they considered the loan feasible, they would then communicate further.

MM. Brocardt said that a loan of 7,500,000 fr. might be perhaps raised at 88, or 6,600,000 fr. in cash, with interest at 6 per cent. a-year, charged on the customs revenues. Monthly payments of capital were to commence after ten years.

M. Pariente said that he was sending up to Fez the above proposals by special courier. He had mentioned them to the Commissioner of the Custom-house here, and

the latter thought that, though the terms were not very favourable, it was quite possible that the Moorish Government would accept them, as they were so hard pressed for money.

M. Pariente observed that the Moorish Government would practically pay 7·20 per cent. interest on what they received in cash. He added that he understood MM. Brocardt were a small firm, and would not be able to advance the money themselves; and that if they embarked on the project they would probably endeavour to float the loan in the open market.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 523.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 555. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 4, 1903.

I SPOKE again to the French Ambassador to-day on the subject of the Moorish loan. He told me that M. Delcassé had mentioned the matter to him and that he was inclined to think that an additional 300,000*l.* in all was as much as it was desirable to provide for the use of the Sultan. If he got more he would spend it in useless extravagance. I told M. Cambon that I feared that so small a sum would not be sufficient to relieve even the present necessities of the Moorish Government. I went on to say that since our last conversation I had had an opportunity of discussing the matter with the representatives of some of the great financial houses, and I had been put in possession of their views, which were to the following effect:—

A public loan should be issued in London and Paris for 900,000*l.*, which is understood to be the present indebtedness of Morocco to English, French, and Spanish interests, and in addition thereto for such an amount as will cover the requirements of the Moorish Government.

This loan should be secured by hypothecation of the Customs receipts of the various ports, and a sufficient proportion of such customs should be paid daily into the hands of the Commissioners, to be appointed by the English and French Governments, for the purpose of being remitted to Europe to meet the service of the loan.

The Morocco Government to furnish the figures of the Customs revenue collected for the last three years, and upon the basis of these receipts the percentage payable into the hands of the Commissioners should be fixed.

The proceeds of the loan to be applied to paying off the existing indebtedness of the Morocco Government above referred to and the rest to be at the disposal of the Morocco Government as and when required.

An undertaking by the English and French Governments to the same effect as that of the English Government, which is contained in the letter addressed by the Foreign Office to Sir E. Cassel in connection with his advance to the Moorish Government, was considered essential.

This undertaking was as follows:—

"The loan has the approval of His Majesty's Government and in the special circumstances of the case they consent to take note of the terms of the contract as a binding engagement on the part of the Moorish Government.

"In the event of the Moorish Government repudiating or disregarding this engagement, His Majesty's Government will be ready to afford support to the lenders in pressing for the fulfilment of the contract. It would, however, obviously be necessary that His Majesty's Government should be free to decide the shape in which such support should be given."

Upon the basis of the terms above stated it was believed that from 1,500,000*l.* to 2,000,000*l.* could probably be raised.

It was suggested further that in the loan contract the Morocco Government should undertake not to raise, during the currency of this loan, any other loan except with the consent of the lenders.

I admitted that the proposal thus described was a considerable extension of the original proposal, which contemplated merely the duplication of the loans made to the Sultan in February last.

We should, however, I thought, in all probability be willing to take part in an arrangement of the kind.

M. Cambon promised to consider the matter and to make me aware of the views of the French Government as soon as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 524.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 226.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October 30, 1903.*

ACCORDING to the last information which I have received from Fez, the Sultan, with his forces, was slowly returning to the capital, and the evacuation of his former camp appears to have been effected with practically no molestation from the insurgents.

His Majesty's departure from the Tsul district will relieve the insurgents from the fear of falling into destitution in the immediate future, as they will now be able to return to the lower lands and carry out their ploughing operations. Nevertheless, the return to Fez was a prudent measure, as heavy rains have now fallen, and the difficulty of supplying the Government troops would have been very great.

The Taza garrison has been more fortunate than was anticipated in its march towards Oojdah, and the French Chargé d'Affaires informed me last night that he had received a telegram from the French military officer at Oojdah that the Taza troops had reached a place called Ain Sidi Muluk, which is not far from the former town.

It is reported from Melilla that a considerable force of these Riff tribes, who are sympathizers with the Pretender, is advancing towards Oojdah and crossing the Muluya River near its mouth. I have no details as to the composition of this body, but the troops at Oojdah, reinforced by the Taza contingents, should, if properly handled, be able to deal with any movement in that quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 525.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 228.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 1, 1903.*

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reports that the Sultan arrived at the capital on the 28th ultimo, and entered the Palace with the usual ceremony. He states that His Majesty looked in good health but not in cheerful spirits. It is said that all the tribal contingents will shortly be disbanded and sent to their homes.

The Spanish Minister informs me that he learnt to-day from Melilla that the forces which were advancing from the Riff, and which I reported in my despatch No. 226 of the 30th October, were to attack the Government troops at Oojdah, had dispersed, having heard that the latter had been reinforced by the former garrison at Taza, and fearing that their opponents might prove too strong for them.

As the rains have fallen, and ploughing operations will commence, it is hoped that a cessation of hostilities will now ensue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 526.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 583. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, November 6, 1903.*

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 182 of the 25th ultimo (a copy of which was transmitted to me with your Lordship's despatch No. 533), I have the honour to report that from inquiries I have made I find that the Banque Brocard (Société Anonyme) is a firm of less than second-rate standing. Its position in the financial world has not been improved by its connection with one of the Electric Lighting Companies of this city; and it is thought very doubtful whether the Brocard Bank could successfully float a loan of the nature indicated by Sir A. Nicolson.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 527.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 186.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November 8, 1903.*

MY telegram No. 184 of the 29th October: Moorish Loans.

I am informed that the American to whom I referred in my above telegram has reappeared here suddenly, and is leaving at once for Fez, not having proceeded further than Gibraltar. According to my information he intends to offer loans to the Sultan. His Majesty might be led astray by him, as he is plausible and has influence with him.

Would your Lordship have any objection to my intimating to the Sultan, privately, that it would be wise for him to wait till he hears from Kaid Maclean, as to prospects of obtaining a loan in London, before he engages himself in any way in other loans?

No. 528.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 187.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November 9, 1903.*

THE Spanish Minister informs me that, during the last few days, fighting between tribes in close proximity to Melilla has been serious, and about 4,000 refugees have entered the Spanish lines, which is a great embarrassment to Spanish authorities.

Moorish authorities at Tangier have refused to transport refugees away from Melilla. I am of the opinion that the question of refugees will settle itself, and that the hostilities among the tribes will soon cease.

No. 529.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 9, 1903.*

MOORISH Loan.

Proposals are still being discussed with financiers here and French Government, but it is not possible to foretell what the issue will be. You may, however, advise the Sultan, as suggested in your telegram No. 186 of the 8th instant.

No. 530.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 572. Confidential.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, November 11, 1903.

THE French Ambassador told me to-day that after the conversation recorded in my despatch No. 555 of the 4th instant on the subject of a Moorish loan, he had communicated to M. Delcassé the Memorandum which I had handed to him. His Excellency had since received a letter from M. Delcassé, in which the Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed the opinion that the proposal of the British financiers went beyond what was desirable. It contemplated the emission of a public loan on the French and English markets, and the establishment of a kind of dual control over the Moorish customs. Seeing that a negotiation was actually in progress between the two Governments, the result of which might be that in return for concessions elsewhere France would be given a predominance in Morocco and some kind of control over the Moorish finances, the moment seemed to M. Delcassé ill-chosen for the deliberate creation of a sort of financial condominium in that country—a condominium in which the Spanish Government would, in all probability, desire to be associated with Great Britain and France. Such an arrangement would be useless in the event of our negotiations proving successful, while it was, to say the least of it, premature to act upon the assumption that they would not succeed. M. Delcassé thought, moreover, that the sum proposed was needlessly large.

On the whole, therefore, M. Delcassé decidedly preferred that the matter should be left to be arranged by the financiers of the two countries as had been done in the spring. I gathered from M. Cambon that the French Government had already intimated to the Banque de Paris that a further loan upon the same terms as that originally made in April last would be favourably regarded by them.

I replied to M. Cambon that, after what he told me, it was useless for me to insist further. I was, however, under the impression that our financiers would not be found ready to make a further loan upon the original terms.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 531.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 188.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, November 14, 1903.

AT the command of the Sultan, His Majesty's Commissioner called on me to-day requesting that the Diplomatic Body should sign the Agreement with regard to internal taxation, and asked me to call a meeting for that purpose. Nothing, he said, now stood in the way of the Agreement being finally accepted, as all difficulties with the French Government were arranged.

This fact was confirmed by the French Chargé d'Affaires, who said he would telegraph to Paris in order to receive authority to sign, and asked me to defer calling the meeting until he received it.

No. 532.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 230.)
My Lord,

Tangier, November 3, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, reporting rumours that one or more French military officers are to be stationed at each Moorish port, and also informing me of the movements of some French travellers in the interior.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 532.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 74.)
Sir,

Dar-al-Baida, October 28, 1903.

A CAPTAIN of the French Army has arrived here, and it is said that he is appointed to this place for the purpose of instructing the local company of "Askar."

I have learnt that on board the French steamer "Triton," the visit of which to Mogador and other coast towns was reported to you by Mr. Vice-Consul Madden, were three French military officers engaged on a special mission, the nature of which has not been indicated to me.

You will remember that the "Triton" was supposed to have visited the coast on purely commercial matters.

In the same category of events is the travelling in the interior of M. and Mdme. Brenve and Dr. Jaquesten (?).

This is said to be a party of mineralogists, and they were last reported on the Glawi Mountain. They were assisted in every way by the Acting French Vice-Consul in Mogador, M. Marchand, who spent some days in the interior with them.

A further sign of French activity in this district is the recent visit of a French steamer to Arksis in southern Sus, with a number of Moors on board belonging to the Ait-ba-Amran district. These men were working in some kind of metal factory in Oran under the direction of a M. Lemaire, who was also on board.

I am credibly informed that other labourers from the same district declined to make the voyage, and deserted their work to travel to their homes overland.

I further hear that one or more French officers are to be stationed at each port, and what lends colour to this report is that, in a private letter I received this morning from Mr. Vice-Consul Spinney, he informs me that the French Consular Agent in Mazagan is officially trying to hire several residences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MACLEAN.

No. 533.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 231.)
My Lord,

Tangier, November 3, 1903.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mogador has supplied me with some further information in regard to the presence of a foreign vessel at Arksis in the Sus Province, which he has obtained from sources which appear to be trustworthy. It seems well-established that the vessel is of French nationality, and that she arrived from Oran with a M. Lemaire and some Moors on board. M. Lemaire, according to one of Mr. Madden's informants, is overseer of some "mines" or "metal factories," the reports differ as to the character of the business, at Beni Saf, a sea-port some 50 miles west of Oran. This informant, who comes from Ait-ben-Amran in the Sus, has worked, with others of his compatriots, under M. Lemaire, and knows that gentleman well. He states that last year certain of these Moorish workmen brought from their homes in the Sus some samples of gold dust to M. Lemaire, and it is supposed that the latter has now come himself to the coast with the hope of being able to prospect for gold on the spot.

The steamer arrived at Arksis while the informant of Mr. Madden was there, and from his statement and from the reports from other sources, it appears that the authorities refused to allow any Christians to land or to trade without the permission of the Sultan. The vessel, it is said, thereupon left, and the people on board stated that they would shortly return with the necessary permission.

The report, which I mentioned in a previous despatch, of two Christians having landed and having been detained by the natives does not appear to be confirmed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No 534.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 232.)
My Lord,

Tangier, November 6, 1903.

THE Spanish Minister read to me this morning a telegram which he had just received from the Governor of Melilla, reporting that yesterday there had been active fighting between opposing factions of the Riff tribes close to the Spanish lines, and it was probable that fighting would be resumed to day. Several hundred people, with a large number of cattle, had taken refuge in Melilla. The hostilities are in themselves not of great moment, but M. de Cologan was of opinion that these dissensions among the Riff tribes might encourage the Sultan's forces, which are collecting at Oojdah and its neighbourhood, to endeavour to utilize the occasion by advancing into the Riff province, with the object of compelling its inhabitants to submit to the Sultan's rule. In that case he gathered, from several indications, that an application might be made to the Spanish authorities to permit Melilla to be in a measure made the base of operations.

He alluded to the assistance which the Algerian authorities had afforded to the Moorish forces by permitting men, material of war, money, &c., to pass through Algerian territory and be, when required, transported over the border; and also to the fact that French officers were at Oojdah itself, and, so far as his information went, giving the Moorish Commanders the benefit of their advice. He considered it not improbable that similar facilities would be asked of the Spanish authorities, and he had ventured to express to his Government his opinion that it would be unwise to grant such concessions, or to take any active part in the affairs of the Moorish Government and their rebellious tribes. Admitting, he observed, that the Moorish expedition arrived in the neighbourhood of Melilla, and owing to facilities offered to them through that port, succeeded in defeating the insurgents, it was unlikely that any permanent subjection would be effected, or that the Sultan's officers would be able to remain for any length of time in the turbulent Riff Province. On their departure the tribes would take every opportunity of retaliating for the assistance which had been rendered by the Spanish authorities to the Government troops, and the relations between Melilla and the neighbouring districts would be constantly strained, and a very inconvenient situation created. He was strongly in favour of an absolute neutrality.

The views of the Spanish Minister appear to be sound, but I doubt if the Moorish officials at Oojdah will be very eager to step into such a hornet's nest as the Riff. Whatever dissensions may exist among the Riff tribes, I think they would be temporarily laid aside to resist any attempt to establish the rule of the Moorish Government. I thought, however, that I should report to your Lordship what the Spanish Minister had stated to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 535.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 233.)
My Lord,

Tangier, November 6, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note which the Sultan's Deputy has addressed to me, as doyen of the Diplomatic Body, stating that the Sultan has issued orders that no European should travel to Fez without special permission, and that this prohibition is also to apply to those Europeans who are engaged in the various services of His Majesty.

The Moorish Government are, strictly speaking, within their Treaty rights in restricting, as a measure of police, the freedom of travel; but I hardly think it would be prudent to admit that they can divest themselves of all responsibility for the safety

of those who do travel in the interior, even without permission. My colleagues shared my views on this point, and concurred with the terms of my reply, of which I beg leave to enclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 535.

Hadj Mohammed Torres to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

13 *Shaaban*, 1321 (*November* 4, 1903).

I HAVE received a Shereefian letter to the effect that present circumstances render it necessary that no subject of the friendly foreign Powers should proceed to the Shereefian Court at present; whether he be one of those employed in any of the various services of His Majesty or not; and our Lord has instructed me to inform the respective Representatives of this, that they may be cognizant thereof and may prevent any of their nationals who have the intention of going from doing so, until permission be granted them to that effect, when it may be desirable; and they shall notify them that whosoever persists in going without permission, and anything happens to him, there will be no responsibility for it on the Government; and that His Majesty's object in this measure is to guard over the inviolability of the subjects of the honoured foreign nations and over the fixed bonds of friendship, and not give occasion to the happening of that which would cause annoyance to mutual friends. I therefore have informed your Excellency of this, trusting that you will acquaint the respective Representatives of this, and I await an early reply.

May you rest, &c.
(Signed) MOHAMMED TORRES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 535.

Sir A. Nicolson to Hadj Mohammed Torres.

(After compliments.)

Tangier, November 6, 1903.

I HAVE received the letter which you were good enough to address to me on the 4th instant, informing me that by order of the Sultan, all Europeans, both those in the employ of His Majesty, and also others, are prohibited for the present from going to Fez without they receive special permission to do so. You request me to bring the above to the knowledge of the Representatives, so that they may notify it to their nationals; and you add that, in the event of any one going to Fez without permission, the Moorish Government will not be responsible for anything which may happen to him.

I am requested by my colleagues to inform you that they have taken note of the contents of your letter. They regret that, in the opinion of the Moorish Government, circumstances require that restriction should be placed on free circulation in the country, and they hope that the prohibition to travel to Fez without special permission is merely a temporary measure. At the same time my colleagues, as well as myself, are unable to divest the Moorish Government of their responsibility for the safety of the lives and property of our nationals who may travel in the interior, and we wish to make all reserves on this point.

No. 536.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 234. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Tangier, November 7, 1903.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informs me that he recently paid a visit to the Minister of War, whom he found in low spirits, and much vexed at the results of the last campaign. Cid-el-Menebhi said that from the time he took command of the

army he had been thwarted and deceived by the other Ministers, and that he had occasionally been driven to the verge of distraction by the vacillation of the Sultan, and His Majesty's unwillingness to permit him to push matters vigorously to a conclusion.

He had been, he continued, bitterly disappointed at being recalled from Taza. This, he considered, was a great mistake, as he would have succeeded by remaining in that strategical position in securing the submission of all the surrounding tribes, and he would have then been able to force the Pretender to emerge from his mountain strongholds—and once the latter was in the plains he would have been easily dealt with

After that he had rejoined the Sultan he pressed His Majesty, but without success, to march boldly on into the heart of the enemy's country; and his proposals, made on three occasions, that he should himself lead a picked force against the camp of the Pretender in the Tsul district were all refused. He sent in his resignation more than once, but this was not accepted, and the whole army remained idle for months in the entrenched camp, accomplishing nothing, and being a very heavy burden to the Moorish Treasury.

Cid-el-Menebhi apparently made no forecast as to the future. His Excellency is the only man who has shown energy and courage during the course of the present troubles, and it is easy to understand his great disappointment at the manner in which the whole campaign has been mismanaged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 537.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 189.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 19, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 188 of the 14th instant, we propose to sign Regulations as to new taxation on Monday next, the French Chargé d'Affaires having received authority to do so from his Government.

No. 538.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 123.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 19, 1903.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 233 of the 6th instant, inclosing translation of a note addressed to you by the Sultan's Deputy in regard to the orders issued by the Sultan that no European should travel to Fez without special permission.

I approve the terms of your reply to Hadj Mohammed Torres.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 539.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 23.)

(No. 235.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 12, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 232 of the 6th instant, relative to the disturbances round Melilla, the Spanish Minister tells me that, in accordance with instructions from his Government, he requested the Sultan's Deputy to make arrangements for transporting to Moorish territories the refugees in the Spanish lines, and who now number some 4,000 souls.

Hadj Mohammed Torres declined to entertain the proposal. He stated that all the Riffians were rebels, and that if the refugees were deposited on Moorish territory he would take steps to imprison all of them, without distinction of age or sex. He said

that the Spanish authorities could send the refugees back over the lines and refuse to harbour them.

This step, the Spanish Minister explained to him, was an impossible one, and would not be a humane act; but he was unable to induce Hadj Mohammed Torres to depart from his decision to have nothing to do with the refugees, or to modify his intention of dealing severely with them should they be landed in Moorish territory.

In these circumstances the Spanish Minister considers that the only course left is for the Spanish authorities to continue to care for the refugees, although their presence in a comparatively confined space like Melilla is inconvenient and expensive.

It is to be hoped that the tribes will soon discontinue their hostilities, and enable the refugees to return to their homes, though, if the reports which are current are correct, the two contending parties have destroyed most of the habitations, and committed much devastation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 540.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 23.)

(No. 236.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 6, 1903.

THE American gentleman, Mr. Langermann, whose name has come occasionally before your Excellency in connection with loans and other enterprises in Morocco, left here yesterday for Fez. He is reported as willing to obtain any advances which the Moorish Government may require, and the latter, in their present straitened circumstances, may be inclined to fall in with any offer without looking too carefully into the conditions which may be attached to it.

With the permission of your Lordship, I have requested Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod to intimate privately to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that I thought that it would be wise for the Moorish Government to keep their hands perfectly free as to loans until they hear from Kaïd Maclean. I have added that the question is under consideration in London, and that it would be imprudent on their part if, in the meantime, they were to embark on any undertakings elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 541.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 23.)

(No. 237.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 13, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a correspondence which has passed between Major Spilsbury and myself relative to the surrender to him of some rifles which were seized and confiscated as contraband by the Moorish authorities. These rifles were handed in as exhibits during the trial of Mr. Grey and others on a charge of smuggling before the Chief Justice of Gibraltar, sitting in Tangier. The defendants were found guilty of the offence, and the rifles, which were temporarily handed to the Consulate for the purpose of evidence, were, on a request recently made by the Moorish authorities, returned to them. By Treaty the latter had a right to retain them.

In my letters to Major Spilsbury I did not wish to enter into a discussion with him as to the trial of that gentleman at Gibraltar, when he was, if I remember rightly, charged with riot and assault, and found not guilty of this offence. It seemed to me that this was a matter into which it would not be proper for me to enter, and which was a case distinct from that which led to the seizure of the rifles.

Major Spilsbury is in error, I would submit, in considering that his acquittal at Gibraltar on one charge superseded the conviction at Tangier of his companions on another charge.

Major Spilsbury wishes to publish the correspondence. Personally, I have no objection to his doing so; but before replying to his proposal I would wish to submit the correspondence to your Lordship. If your Lordship sees no objection to my leaving it to him to publish the correspondence or not, I do not know if it would be desirable to correct several misapprehensions which appear in his letters, or simply to content myself with a statement that I have no observations to offer as to his wish to publish the correspondence. In my opinion it would perhaps be undesirable to be drawn into a discussion with Major Spilsbury on the several questions connected with the "Tourmaline" expedition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 541.

Major Spilsbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir,

37, *Abbey Road, London, September* 27, 1903.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th August.

I shall be obliged if you will state on what grounds you have given up my rifles to the Moorish Government, in direct contradiction with the effects of the Judgment of the High Court of Gibraltar of April 1899, which acquitted me of all the charges and allegations made against me.

Your, &c.
(Signed) A. G. SPILSBURY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 541.

Sir A. Nicolson to Major Spilsbury.

Sir,

Tangier, October 3, 1903.

IN reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, I am desired by His Majesty's Minister to inform you that the importation of arms into Morocco is forbidden, and that the Moorish authorities have the right to seize any arms which it is attempted to introduce.

I am, &c.
(For Sir A. Nicolson),
(Signed) W. H. LEE EWART

Inclosure 3 in No. 541.

Major Spilsbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir,

37, *Abbey Road, London, October* 10, 1903.

I HAVE to thank your Excellency for the informatiou contained in your letter of the 3rd instant.

It however hardly answers my letter of the 27th ultimo.

At my trial at Gibraltar, I admitted all the facts alleged against me, and pleaded justification, mainly on the ground that the Sultan had no jurisdiction, which allowed him to interfere with my landing at Erksees, and I proved in evidence that, even if it had ever been subject to his authority, he had, under the Treaty of Tetuan, ceded this particular district to Spain.

This plea was upheld by the Judgment of the Court, since it acquitted me, and there was no other ground of acquittal pleaded.

The verdict of the Court clearly justified me in my visit to Erksees, and in all my acts in connection with that visit, including the landing of arms; the arms were introduced by Kaïd Gilooli into Morocco, when he took them from a place, where he had no jurisdiction, into the Sultan's dominions.

I wish to point out that your Excellency's decision to give up the arms to the Moorish Government is in direct conflict with the Judgment of the Court, which may or

may not be good law, but must stand as such until it is overruled by a higher Court, and ought not to be ignored by the Executive.

I may add that I am not raising this point for the sake of the arms, but in order to clear up the question of law which this case involves.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. G. SPILSBURY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 541.

Sir A. Nicolson to Major Spilsbury.

Sir,

Tangier, October 15, 1903.

I AM desired by His Majesty's Minister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, and to point out to you that the rifles were seized by Kaïd Gilooli, at Arksis, from your companions, who were subsequently convicted by the Chief Justice of Gibraltar for smuggling arms into the dominions of the Sultan of Morocco.

By Article XIII of the Commercial Treaty of 1856, such contraband goods are confiscated to the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(For Sir A. Nicolson),
(Signed) W. H. LEE EWART.

Inclosure 5 in No. 541.

Major Spilsbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir,

37, *Abbey Road, London, October* 24, 1903.

I HAVE to acknowledge your Excellency's letter of the 15th instant.

In reply, I would point out that the rifles were not taken from my men, who were handed over helpless prisoners by the Sebooya tribe, in exchange for some of their own men made prisoners by Kaïd Gilooli, but from my camp.

Your Excellency's argument as to the conviction of my men by the Chief Justice of Gibraltar, sitting in the Consular Court of Tangier, is hardly relevant, since that conviction was superseded by the same Chief Justice sitting in the High Court of Gibraltar, the Court of Appeal of Tangier, when he tried me, their leader, and by his Judgment made apparent to all the world the monstrous iniquity of his previous finding.

At the Gibraltar trial the prosecution based the charge on the fact that I was engaged on an illegal operation, to wit, smuggling arms, and proved that the rifles in question were mine, and were landed by me at Erksees.

I admitted the landing and the ownership. Your Excellency has recognized it too, by giving up to me the articles plundered at the same time from my camp.

It is clear, therefore, that the rifles, the same as the remaining portion of the loot, must be adjudged in accordance with my status in the matter.

To constitute them contraband, and liable to confiscation, it would have to be shown that I was guilty of smuggling, since I was proved to be the owner and introducer into the Erksees camp.

Will your Excellency presume to accuse me of smuggling, in view of the Judgment of the High Court?

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. G. SPILSBURY.

Inclosure 6 in No. 541.

Sir A. Nicolson to Major Spilsbury.

Sir, *Tangier, October* 30, 1903.

I AM desired by His Majesty's Minister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, and to say that he has nothing to add to his letter of the 15th instant.

I am, &c.
(For Sir A. Nicolson),
(Signed) W. H. LEE EWART.

Inclosure 7 in No. 541.

Major Spilsbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, 37, *Abbey Road, London, November* 7, 1903.

I HAVE to acknowledge your Excellency's letter of the 30th October, in which your Excellency, unable to refute the logic of my argument, takes refuge in the usual stereotyped formula provided for such cases.

As however the question involves public rights, I shall be glad to know whether your Excellency has any objection to the publication of this correspondence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. SPILSBURY.

No. 542.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 238.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 15, 1903.

Cid Benasser Ghannam called on me yesterday, and informed me that he had been commissioned by the Sultan to request me to convoke a meeting of the Diplomatic Body, so that the Representatives could sign on behalf of their Governments the Regulations relative to the collection of certain taxes from foreigners and foreign protected persons.

These Regulations were forwarded in my despatch No. 81 of the 22nd May, 1902, and your Lordship in your despatch No. 61 of the 11th June, 1902, was pleased to authorize me to sign them when the proper time arrived.

Cid Benasser Ghannam told me that the questions which had delayed the French Government in giving their assent to these Regulations had now been satisfactorily arranged, and that, so far as he was aware, nothing stood in the way of their being put into execution. I said that I would at once consult with my colleagues on the subject, and let him know when we were ready to sign.

I inquired of the French Chargé d'Affaires whether he was now in a position to agree to the Regulations, as I had understood that there were no outstanding questions between his Legation and the Moorish Government. M. Descos said that he had, while at Fez, arranged the difficulties in regard to the taxation of certain properties of the Shereefs of Wazzan, and that personally he saw no objection to his signing the Regulations. As his Minister was absent on leave, he hesitated, however, to take this step without first consulting with his Government, and he promised to telegraph for the necessary authority.

The Moorish Government will have to proceed with great tact and caution in the collection of these taxes, and I confess I view with some misgivings their probable action in this respect. Some months must elapse before the necessary preliminaries are arranged, and before the machinery for collection is in proper working order, and in any case the taxes, so far as foreign subjects are concerned, would not have to be paid until the 15th June of next year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 543.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 190.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 24, 1903.

I AM informed confidentially by the Legation banker, that he hears a French group is about to approach their Government with regard to favouring a loan for 1,000,000*l.* to the Moorish Government, the repayments to commence after ten years have elapsed, and the interest on the loan to be 7 per cent.

The son-in-law of the manager of "Le Temps," the newspaper, is, it is said, the prime mover in this matter.

Confidential information has been received by the Legation banker from Fez to the effect that the Minister for Foreign Affairs is about to go on a mission to Paris. With regard to this matter, I have received no other information concerning it.

No. 544.

Messrs. Forwood Brothers and Company to Foreign Office.—(Received November 26.)

Morocco House,
Sir, *St. Mary Axe, London, November* 26, 1903.

WITH reference to Moorish Loan, Kaïd Sir Harry Maclean has shown us a letter, dated the 20th November, he has received from Sir Eric Barrington, Lord Lansdowne's Private Secretary, which he considers private.

Will the Marquess of Lansdowne kindly give Mr. Ernest Forwood permission to print on the prospectus and on the bonds of the said loan the following extract from the said letter:—

"The loan has the approval of His Majesty's Government, and, in the special circumstances of the case, they consent to take note of the terms of the contract as a binding engagement on the part of the Moorish Government. In the event of the Moorish Government repudiating or disregarding this engagement, His Majesty's Government will be ready to afford support to the lenders in pressing for the fulfilment of the contract.

"It would, however, obviously be necessary that His Majesty's Government should be free to decide the shape in which such support could be given."

We are, &c.
(Signed) PERCY L. FORWOOD,
per pro Forwood Bros. and Co.

No. 545.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 191.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 27, 1903.

MY telegram No. 190 of the 24th instant.

The French Minister for Foreign Affairs has, I am told, informed the French Chargé d'Affaires here that the French Government are aware of the proposed loan. The Representative of the French group also telegraphed here yesterday to the effect that he could affirm almost positively that a loan could be arranged, provided that the Moorish Government accepted the conditions.

The French group would be ready to advance from 600,000*l.* to 1,000,000*l.*, and is apparently anxious for the matter to be pushed forward, so the Legation Banker is to-day sending proposals to the Moorish Government.

Interest of loan is to be secured on customs revenues of Tangier, Daralbaida, and Mogador; and group wish to appoint agents at above ports to check daily receipts and encash one-fifth of above receipts for payment of interest. At the end of every quarter accounts to be squared.

No. 546.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 192.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November 27, 1903.*

NEWS has been received by me from Fez to the effect that the resignation of the Minister of War has been accepted by the Sultan, and his Excellency leaves for Mecca shortly on a pilgrimage. The Minister of War professes to be much pleased at being allowed to leave the Court. Since the return of the Court to Fez, the Minister of War has fallen out of favour, as the other Ministers have successfully prejudiced His Majesty against him.

No. 547.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 126.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 27, 1903.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 237 of the 13th instant, inclosing copies of correspondence which has passed between Major Spilsbury and yourself relative to his claim for the return to him of rifles seized and confiscated as contraband by the Moorish authorities at the time of the "Tourmaline" incident.

These rifles were seized at the time of the capture of Mr. Grey and others, who were tried and found guilty of smuggling. The arms were temporarily handed to the Consulate for the purposes of evidence at the trial, and it was only proper that they should have been subsequently returned to the Moorish authorities on their applying for them.

You are correct in stating that the charge on which Major Spilsbury was tried at Gibraltar and acquitted was that of "riot and assault." The case was obviously quite distinct from the trial of Mr. Grey and others for smuggling, and Major Spilsbury's acquittal can in no way be considered as superseding the conviction of his companions on a perfectly different charge.

The tone of Major Spilsbury's letter to you of the 7th instant seems to me to justify you in leaving it unanswered. Should he, however, press for a reply to his inquiry as to the publication of the correspondence, he might be informed that you do not consider that it comes within your duties to answer communications so worded, that your refusal to enter into discussion with him must not be taken as in any way implying admission of his statements and arguments, which are in many important respects incorrect and misleading, but that there is nothing in your own letters which you desire to withhold from publication.

You are at liberty to state at the same time that you have referred the correspondence to me; that the course you have taken in regard to the rifles is considered by me to have been perfectly correct; and that the fact that Major Spilsbury was acquitted on a charge of riot and assault, in no way invalidates the claim of the Moorish Government to confiscate arms which were introduced into Moorish territory in defiance of the law.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 548.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 239.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 19, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida relative to the condition of affairs in the Adrar district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 548.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 90.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, November 17, 1903.*

THREE days ago some travellers from the neighbourhood of Shinghit, in Adrar, arrived here on their way to Fez. Two of these men are students who are going to the Zawai of Sheikh Hamed Shems, Khalifa in Fez of Ma-el-Aineen, the great Sheikh of Sagia-t-el-Hamra, south of the Wad Draa.

They state that Shinghit itself is almost destroyed by internal dissensions.

The Sheikh Uld Hamed-uld-Ida, recognized as Chief of the whole Adrar, died about a year ago, and since his death there has been nothing but anarchy. The principal merchants have resorted to a nomad existence, under tents. There is a similar state of affairs in Tajakaut and Tinduf.

The best known and real merchant prince of the country is a man named Ali Uld Amara-uld-Abaha, originally of Glimim. Until recently there has existed a flourishing trade between Glimim and Timbuctoo through the above-named places, but it has been so harassed by the French that it has come to an end. I gather that the trade consisted originally of Manchester goods from Mogador, exchanged for slaves, gold dust, ostrich feathers, and ivory.

These Shinghit people state that they have seen nothing of the French, but they are aware that Tagaut, the forest country north-east of Senegal, is in their possession.

In connection with the above I beg to call your attention to the fact that the recent annexations by the Governor-General of French Western Africa were accomplished by M. Xavier Coppolani, "Secrétaire-Général des Colonies, chargé de la direction politique de la Mauritanie," through the agency of Sheikh Sidi Said Boo, who is son of the brother of Ma-el-Aineen, of Sagiat-el-Hamra.

It is the same M. Coppolani who is so active in directing the Algerian "Bureaux Arabs" in their endeavours to sow dissensions among the religious fraternities and Zowias throughout Morocco.

I believe that this action constitutes the most serious menace to the independence and integrity of Morocco.

The recent annexations on the right bank of the Senegal River were made easy by the principal local religious Chief, having found himself dispossessed of authority by rivals, giving his power of attorney to M. Coppolani, and thus what is called "pacific penetration" was accomplished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MACLEAN.

No. 549.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 240.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 20, 1903.*

SOME difficulty recently arose in regard to the instalments due to British, French, and German bankers here on account of the new silver coinage, but the arrears have just been, in great measure, liquidated out of a small advance of 50,000*l.* which the Moorish Government received from some private sources in London. This advance was secured on the Customs revenues of several ports, and is to be repaid within twelve months.

From what I can ascertain, the Customs revenues are for the next twelve months now fully pledged, though it is possible that for some of the private advances some second security is held which could be called upon in case of default. Until the finances of the Moorish Government are placed on a more solid and sounder basis, and some means are found for increasing the revenues, I am afraid they will find it increasingly difficult to meet their obligations and current expenses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 550.

Mr. Adam to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 96. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Madrid, November 21, 1903.*

THE Minister of State has been so much taken up of late with his Parliamentary duties, that his reception of the Corps Diplomatique this morning was the first one for over three weeks.

As soon as we had disposed of some minor matters, his Excellency asked me whether I had heard from Sir Mortimer Durand since he left Madrid, and seemed somewhat disappointed when I replied that I had only received one or two short notes on private business.

Upon my inquiring whether he had any recent news from Morocco, Count de San Bernardo replied that he had not received any official information of any importance, but that Confidential reports from private sources stated that the French were displaying very considerable activity on the Western frontier of Algeria, and that they had collected a force of about 12,000 men in the neighbourhood of Figuig, ready for all emergencies.

His Excellency expressed great anxiety at the attitude of France, and at the campaign which was being openly carried on, both in Paris and abroad, in favour of a French Protectorate over Morocco.

He went on to say that he had asked Sir H. M. Durand to speak again to your Lordship on the subject of Morocco, and explained that this was the reason for asking whether I had received any communication from him.

His Excellency insisted on the necessity for constant watchfulness, in order to guard against any independent action on the part of France, and dwelt on the importance of maintaining the *status quo* as long as possible.

He declared that the interests of Great Britain and Spain were identical in Morocco, and urged that the presence of Spain on the southern side of the Straits of Gibraltar was a guarantee of the maintenance of peace, whereas the occupation of the territory in question by a strong military and naval Power such as France, would be a perpetual menace to British as well as general European interests.

He finally pointed out that the creation of a French Protectorate over Morocco, in defiance of the traditional rights and aspirations of Spain, could not but have most serious consequences in regard to Spanish internal politics, as it would probably lead to the overthrow of the Monarchy and the establishment of a Republic, which would be merely a tool and a puppet of France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. F. FREDERICK ADAM.

No. 551.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 1, 1903.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting financial assistance to Morocco, concluding with my letter of the 16th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter from Messrs. Forwood,* in regard to a proposal for a further loan to the Moorish Government, together with a draft of the reply which it is proposed to return to the firm†.

I am to request that you will be good enough to inform me, at your earliest convenience, whether the proposed reply to Messrs. Forwood meets with their Lordships' concurrence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H SANDERSON.

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* No. 544.

† See No. 552.

No. 552.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Forwood Bros. and Co.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, December 1, 1903.*

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 26th ultimo relative to a proposed loan to the Moorish Government.

Lord Lansdowne understands the conditions of the loan to be as follows :—

1. The loan not to exceed 300,000*l.*

2. To be repaid at the expiration of ten years.

3. In case of non-payment of interest or capital when it becomes due, to be secured upon the customs of Casablanca in terms of the Royal Order issued by the Sultan of Morocco to Kaïd Maclean.

4. Interest to be payable at 6 per cent. per annum quarterly and sinking fund to repay the loan at maturity to be provided, commencing at expiration of two years in terms of the Royal Order referred to.

5. The loan to be taken at 95, the Sultan's Government to pay the expenses of creation of security and issue.

The following is a translation of the Sultan's Order to Kaïd Maclean, referred to in the above conditions :—

"We have ordered, the bearer of this, Kaïd Maclean, to proceed to England to negotiate a loan of 1,000,000*l.*, or thereabouts, as a loan to the Makhzen from some bank (or banks) in accordance with recognized commercial usage, and to make a contract with them on certain conditions, amongst which (shall be the following) :—

"The rate of interest on the amount borrowed shall not exceed 6 per cent. per annum as customary, the interest shall be payable at the beginning of each year from the Custom-house at Tangier, a term shall be fixed for the repayment of the capital by monthly instalments in ten, eight, or five years, as the case may be, and as may be possible after the expiration of a term of two years, during which no repayment of capital shall be made.

"Should the term appointed for the repayment of the capital expire, and the Makhzen be in arrears with some or all of the monthly instalments, the bank will have the right of placing its agent in the Custom-house of Dar-al-Baida to sit with the Umana, who will hand to him the receipts of the Custom-house until the amount due shall have been completed.

"Should the Makhzen be able to pay off the capital in whole or in part before the expiration of the term appointed for its repayment, even should it be after one year only, the bank shall accept it with the interest due for the time that the Makhzen shall have had the money, and no more, and such other conditions as may be considered in the Contract to be made.

"Peace. 13 Jumad II, 1312."

I am to state, in reply, that in the event of a loan not exceeding 300,000*l.* being arranged on the conditions above stated, Lord Lansdowne will be prepared, on receiving official communication of the Contract, to address to you an official letter giving an assurance in the following terms, with permission to print it in the prospectus and on the bonds of the loan :—

"The loan has the approval of His Majesty's Government, and in the special circumstances of the case they consent to take note of the terms of the Contract as a binding engagement on the part of the Moorish Government. In the event of the Moorish Government repudiating or disregarding the engagement, His Majesty's Government will be ready to afford support to the lenders in pressing for the fulfilment of the Contract. It would, however, obviously be necessary that His Majesty's Government should be free to decide the method and extent of the support which could be given according to the actual circumstances of the case.

It will, of course, be understood that this assurance differs entirely from any guarantee of interest or capital of the loan which could only be given by Act of Parliament. The difference in the risk which attaches to the loan in consequence of the absence of such a guarantee is recognized in the rate of interest which it is to bear.

It will be for the contractors to satisfy themselves that there are no prior claims on the customs receipts of Dar-al-Baida which would materially affect the sufficiency of the security offered for the service of the loan, and they will understand that neither in this

nor in other respects can His Majesty's Government accept any pecuniary liability in regard to the transaction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 553.

Treasury to Foreign Office.—(Received December 2.)

Sir, *Treasury Chambers, December 1, 1903.*

IN reply to your letter of even date relative to the proposed further loan to the Moorish Government to be advanced by Messrs. Forwood, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to request you to convey to the Marquess of Lansdowne their general approval of the draft letter to that firm which was transmitted therewith.

I am to add that they hope it will be arranged that the assurance shall not appear in any published document.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. W. HAMILTON.

No. 554.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 193.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 2, 1903.*

MOORISH loans.

My telegram No. 191 of the 27th ultimo.

The proposed loan, referred to in my above-mentioned telegram, is, the Spanish Minister informs me, being supported at Moorish Court by the French Legation; and M. de Cologan is of opinion that without instructions this step would not have been taken by French Legation. The matter, I informed him, had not, I had reason to believe, as yet come to the knowledge of financial houses of repute in France. This, he replied, was possible at the present stage of negotiations, but French firms might be requested by French Government to undertake loan, if Moorish Government agreed to terms, and that, if this came about, co-operation would not be refused by firms.

I am also told by Spanish Minister that his Government has been informed of this privately by him.

No. 555.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Adam.

(No. 145. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 2, 1903.*

I INFORMED the Spanish Ambassador to-day, in reply to questions which he asked me, that negotiations were proceeding in London for a further Moorish loan. I was not yet able to say what their result would be. I understood that there was some question of raising a sum sufficient to pay off the 300,000*l.* raised in March last. I also understood that it was part of the arrangement that, in case of default, the lenders should have the right of putting agents of their own into the Moorish Customs.

His Excellency asked me if I could give him any information as to negotiations for a French loan. I said that all I could tell him was that they were still incomplete.

They were, I believed, being conducted with the approval of the French Government, but were distinct from those which had been proceeding in London.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 556.

Messrs. Forwood Bros. & Co. to Foreign Office.—(Received December 3.)

Morocco House, St. Mary Axe,
Dear Sir, *London, December 2, 1903.*

WE beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 1st instant, for which please accept our best thanks.

We have read it to Sir Harry Maclean, who at once pointed out that the amount required is 500,000*l.*, not 300,000*l.* As we anticipate no difficulty in raising this further amount, we shall be glad to hear that that sum meets with Lord Lansdowne's approval.

We shall be pleased if you will let us have an answer as early as possible, as Kaid Sir Harry Maclean is anxious to get back to the Court with the necessary documents.

We beg to remain, &c.
(Signed) FORWOOD Bros. & Co.

No. 557.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 194.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 3, 1903.*

NEWS has reached me from Fez to the effect that the American, Mr. Langerman by name, who went up to the Court recently, has, in an interview with the Sultan, informed His Majesty that he is confident he could procure a loan of 2,000,000*l.*, or more if necessary, without difficulty, and that he is ready to return to America in regard to this matter. He further informed His Majesty that he alone could assist him, as England and France would neither of them advance money.

I am told that the Sultan as well as the brother of the Minister of Finance, who is His Majesty's new confidant, are inclined to give credence to the statements of Mr. Langerman, and also to agree to the above-mentioned proposition. Until the matter was settled in London and Paris the Minister for Foreign Affairs assured me that the Moorish Government would not tie their hands; but in such matters his Excellency has not much influence.

The above I have communicated to the French Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 558.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Forwood Bros. & Co.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, December 3, 1903.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, inquiring whether his Lordship would approve of the amount of the proposed loan to the Moorish Government being raised from 300,000*l.* to 500,000*l.*

In reply, I am to suggest that Mr. Ernest Forwood should call at the Treasury without loss of time, and see Sir E. Hamilton on this and other details.

The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have expressed the hope that it may be arranged that the assurance to be given by His Majesty's Government shall not appear in any published document, and Lord Lansdowne would suggest that Mr. Forwood might discuss with Sir E. Hamilton the precautions to be taken for this purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 559.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 3, 1903.

WITH reference to your letter of the 1st instant, relative to the proposed further loan to the Moorish Government to be arranged by Messrs. Forwood, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, a copy of a letter from the firm,* inquiring whether his Lordship approves of the amount of the loan being raised from 300,000*l.* to 500,000*l.*

A letter has been addressed to Messrs. Forwood, in reply, suggesting that Mr. Ernest Forwood should at once call at the Treasury to discuss this and other details with Sir E. Hamilton.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 560.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 643. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, December* 4, 1903.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 194 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum by Mr. O'Beirne to the effect that the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas has under contemplation a new Moorish loan to the amount of 2,000,000*l.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 560.

Memorandum by Mr. O'Beirne.

I HEAR on good authority that the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, the bank which made an advance of 300,000*l.* to the Sultan of Morocco this time last year, is now considering the question of a fresh Moorish loan amounting to 2,000,000*l.* A representative of this bank recently visited Morocco in connection with the matter. The bank realize that a loan of this magnitude must involve French financial control over the country, and can only be made as the result of an agreement between the French and British Governments. It has, therefore, not been possible to make any definite arrangements with regard to the proposed loan as yet; but it may be regarded as highly probable that if any large loan is concluded in France it will be by this bank, which has reason to count on the support of the French Government. It is part of the scheme now under consideration that if the loan is eventually concluded, the French Government while controlling the Moorish finances, assuming charge of the Customs, &c., will also endeavour to restore order by furnishing officers for the Sultan's army.

The proposal has hitherto been kept secret, neither Rothschild's nor Hottinguer's Bank having heard of it; and as this information was given to me confidentially it would be desirable that the Embassy should not be mentioned as having received it.

December 4, 1903.

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* No. 556.

No. 561.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 241.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 23, 1903.

THE Regulations in regard to the collection from, and payment by, foreigners and foreign-protected persons of agricultural and other internal taxes, which the Sultan now desires to put into force, were signed to-day by Sid Benasser Ghannam, representing the Moorish Government, and the foreign Representatives in Tangier.

We explained to Sid Benasser Ghannam that it must distinctly be understood that payment of these taxes could not be demanded of foreign subjects and protected persons until they were equally paid by natives throughout the several provinces of the country.

We were of opinion that it was desirable to make this reservation, as it seemed to us that it would not be just to admit a partial application of the taxation project in regard to natives as necessarily justifying the imposition of taxes on foreigners generally.

Sid Benasser Ghannam took note of our declaration, and stated that he was unable to make any observations on it without reference to his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 562.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 242.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 24, 1903.

THE great cattle-rearing and agricultural district of El Gharb, lying between Laraiche and Rabat, was some time ago the scene of many raids and depredations committed by the turbulent tribes, the Beni Hassan and Zimmour, on the inhabitants of the above province.

Several British subjects and protected persons suffered serious losses in consequence of these misdeeds; for which compensation will have to be demanded.

The Moorish Government recently sent Kaïd El Gedari, one of the most influential and wealthiest of Moorish officials, and an intimate friend of the Minister of War, to the Gharb to endeavour to reach, by pacific or other means, a satisfactory termination of the disorders.

The British Vice-Consul at Laraiche now reports to me that, on the 18th instant, an attack was made by some of the Beni Hassan tribes on the residence and farms of Kaïd El Gedari, and that the tribes completely demolished all the buildings and carried away all the cattle and other booty they could find. The Kaïd himself barely escaped with his life, and fled for safety to a place on the south bank of the Sebu River.

A large portion of the captured cattle is said to be the property of the Minister of War.

This sudden and unfortunate termination of the mission of Kaïd El Gedari is much to be regretted, as it may again throw all the district into a condition of turmoil and insecurity, and may block the road between Laraiche and Fez, by which route most of the supplies are sent to the capital.

Merchants at Laraiche have, I am told, already recalled all the caravans they were about to dispatch to Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 563.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 243.)
My Lord,

Tangier, November 24, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch and its inclosure which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod at Fez, containing a statement of the estimated number of forces at Fez on the 19th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 563.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 150.)
Sir,

Fez, November 19, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that since the Sultan's arrival here on the 28th October, most of the tribal contingents have been dismissed to their homes, and His Majesty's tent has been taken in.

Herewith I beg to inclose a statement showing the forces which, so far as I have been able to estimate, now remain at the Sultan's disposal here, amounting to 1,725 tribesmen, and 2,000 infantry, mounted infantry, artillery, and household "Embaznia" cavalry—3,725 in all. Of these the numbers diminish day by day, and it is expected that within two or three weeks only the 2,000 infantry, artillery, and household "Embaznia" will remain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 563.

STATEMENT showing estimated number of Forces at Fez on November 19, 1903.

	Men.
Bab Eftuh: Filala and Berbers of Ait, Atta, Ait Izdig, &c.— 111 small tents; 9 koobas	750
Barracks at New Fez: 4 regiments, viz., Abda Infantry and Mediuna Artillery, Entifa Regiment— El Talib	1,000
Camp at Emsallah: Aits Uriga (Marrakesh Berbers)— 47 small tents; 7 koobas	317
Bu Jelud: Mixed contingents of Zimran, Misfiwa, Sharada Sevagna, Aits Sidi Er-vhal, in all— 108 small tents; 2 koobas	658
Household "Embaznia" cavalry	1,000
Total	3,725

Fez, November 19, 1903.

No. 564.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 244. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Tangier, November 27, 1903.

MR. ABENSUR, one of the Legation Bankers, informs me that he has been confidentially sounded as to whether he would assist in negotiating, on behalf of a French group in Paris, a loan to the Moorish Government. He said that a M. Maurel,

son-in-law of the "Administrateur" of the "Temps," had expressed his readiness to raise a loan of 15,000,000 to 25,000,000 fr. at 7 per cent. interest, to be repaid in twenty years, and the repayments to commence after the lapse of ten years. The contractors would require that the interest on the loan should be secured on the Custom-houses at Tangier, Daralbaida (Casablanca), and they would also request that they should be permitted to appoint agents at each of the above-named ports to daily check the receipts at the Customs and encash a fifth of the revenues for the payment of the interest. At the end of each quarter the accounts would be made up, and if the amounts received by the agents exceeded the sum required for the quarter's interest, this excess would be repaid to the Customs Administrators; and on the other hand any deficit would be made good by the latter.

The same system would be followed when, after ten years, the repayment of the capital commenced; but that then the control would be extended to all the ports.

Mr. Abensur further stated that he had been informed that the French Chargé d'Affaires had received a notification from M. Delcassé to the effect that the French Government were aware of the proposed loan.

Last evening Mr. Abensur said M. Maurel had telegraphed to his representative here, requesting information as to the progress of the negotiations with the Moorish Government, as he could affirm almost positively that, if the conditions were accepted, the loan could be considered as arranged. Mr. Abensur, who is to act as intermediary between the representative in Tangier of the French group and the Moorish Government, told me that he was about to dispatch a courier to Fez conveying the conditions attached to the loan and requesting the Minister of Finance to inform him if the Moorish Government would be disposed to accept them. He thought that the Government might possibly demur to the appointment of agents at the ports and the daily encashment of a portion of the customs revenues; but if the Moorish treasury were really in a depleted condition, and if the need of money were very urgent, the Minister of Finance would probably not look too closely into the nature of the terms which were demanded.

He added that he was unaware which French banks were interested in the project, and stated that he had heard nothing further as to the loan which Mr. Aflalo had been discussing with Messrs. Brocardt of Paris, and he therefore presumed that the negotiations had fallen through.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 565.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 245.)
My Lord,

Tangier, November 28, 1903.

I RECEIVED yesterday afternoon a letter from Dr. Verdon, which had come by special courier from Fez, stating that Cid-el-Menebhi, the Minister of War, wished him to inform me that the Sultan had accepted his resignation, and that he intended leaving shortly on a pilgrimage to Mecca.

Cid Menebhi wished to explain to me that since the return of the Court to Fez the Sultan had entirely changed his attitude towards him, and had practically abstained from all intercourse with him. He attributed his loss of His Majesty's friendship to the intrigues of the other Ministers, who had allowed no opportunity to pass by of discrediting him in the eyes of his Sovereign. In view of the irksome and painful position in which he was thereby placed, he had begged His Majesty to allow him to retire and to proceed to Mecca. The Sultan accorded him an audience on the 22nd instant, when his request was granted.

Cid Menebhi states that he is pleased to leave Fez and to be quit, at any rate, for a time, of the anxieties and rebuffs, which he found increasingly difficult to support. His place in the intimacy of the Sultan has been taken by Hadj Omar Tazee, a brother of the Minister of Finance, and who held a subordinate position in the suite of El Menebhi during the Mission of the latter to London and Berlin.

It is much to be regretted that the Sultan has discarded his former confidant, and has lent his ear to the malicious gossip of other courtiers. His Majesty had no more loyal or devoted servant than the late Minister of War, whose conduct during the

recent campaign against the rebels should have won his master's gratitude and approval, as, on more than one occasion, the courage and energy of Cid Menebhi saved His Majesty's forces from disastrous defeats.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 566.

Sir A Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 195.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December, 9, 1903.*

THE Moorish Commissioner on the Algerian Frontier Commission, who was for hree years under military instruction in England, has, I am informed, been appointed Minister for War, and been summoned to Fez.

No. 567.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 196.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 12, 1903.*

I AM informed by Spanish Minister that a telegram has been received by the agents here of the Frenchman whom I mentioned in my despatch No. 247, Confidential, of the 2nd instant, urging that the negotiations with regard to the loan which he states he is prepared to make should be expedited.

A pressing note to Fez, requesting a reply to terms offered, has been dispatched by special courier.

No. 568.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 247. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 2, 1903.*

THE Spanish Minister, in the course of a conversation this morning, spoke to me in regard to the proposed French loan which was being mooted by M. Maurel of Paris, and as to which he had received information from a Spanish banker here who is in intimate family and business relations with my informant, Mr. Abensur.

M. de Cologan stated that his compatriot had been assured by the French Chargé d'Affaires that the French Legation would give its support at Fez to the project, and such an assurance, M. de Cologan observed, would not have been given unless the Chargé d'Affaires had been authorized to do so. Backed with this support, he added, the project would probably be favourably viewed by the Moorish Government, and if it were eventually launched the control of the customs of the three most important ports would practically fall into the hands of the agents of the French group. The matter seemed to him of such importance that he had communicated privately to his Government the information which had been supplied him.

I told my Spanish colleague that I had some doubts whether his informant had correctly understood the remarks of the French Chargé d'Affaires, as I had reason to believe that important houses in Paris had no knowledge of any loan being under discussion with the Moorish Government, and it seemed to me that the latter would not be approached, nor still less would official support be accorded, until it was sure that the loan would be favourably viewed and accepted by Paris financiers.

M. de Cologan differed from my view, and said he was convinced that Paris houses would readily agree to advance money once they were assured that the French Government approved and sanctioned the proceeding; and they would not demur to the terms which were so favourable.

No. 567*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 246.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 2, 1903.*

REPORTS having recently been current in the local press here that the Pretender's forces had advanced towards Oojdah and had recaptured Ain Sidi Muluk, I inquired of the French Chargé d'Affaires whether he had received any information on the subject from the French officer who was stationed at the former place.

M. Descos told me that he had just received a letter from Oojdah which stated that a garrison of 1,000 men had been left at Ain Sidi Muluk, but that desertions had rapidly reduced that force, which, at the date of the letter from the French officer, only numbered 350. It was possible, M. Descos added, that by now even this residuum had melted away, and that Sidi Muluk was open to whomsoever might wish to occupy it. M. Descos said that he had received no information as to any movements of the Pretender's forces in the Oojdah direction.

It is probable that during the month of Ramadan no active operations will be undertaken, and it is generally believed, though no positive information exists, that the Pretender is still at Taza.

M. Descos mentioned that the French officer had also reported that the Secretary of Sid-el-Menebhi, who had accompanied the Shereefian troops from Taza to Oojdah, had suddenly left for Oran, having doubtless heard that his Chief had fallen out of favour and had resigned his office.

I have. &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 569 A.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 249.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 3, 1903.

THE reports which I receive from the interior of Morocco and from the coast are not as satisfactory as could be desired. Mr. Consul Maclean mentions several instances of tribal disturbances, either against their authorities or amongst each other, which may be attributable to merely local causes, but which, nevertheless, sow seeds for future feuds. Mr. Maclean considers that the situation in his Consular district is less satisfactory than has been the case for some years, while Mr. Hunot, Vice-Consul at Saffi and an old and experienced resident, informs me that the authority of the Government is daily becoming weaker, and that crimes and robberies are on the increase.

In this neighbourhood matters remain much in the same condition as in the past months. The road to Fez is open, but communication with Tetuan, except for couriers, is still closed. What security exists—and it is intermittent and uncertain—is due, not to any assertion or respect of Government authority, but to the good pleasure of the tribes. Ploughing operations are now in full progress, and these will for a time divert and occupy the attention of the people.

I have been informed from Fez that the Sultan has in contemplation the removal of the Court to Morocco City, and that there are some indications of preparations being made for that purpose. Such a step would, I think, be an unfortunate one, if it really be put into execution. The rebellion, though perhaps latent during this month of fast and during the ploughing season, has by no means been suppressed, and a withdrawal of the Sultan would be regarded by the people as a retreat before the enemy. His prestige would therefore still further suffer, and until quiet has been restored in the northern districts, it would be imprudent to move southwards.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 569 B.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 250.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 5, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in duplicate, copies of the "Règlement" concerning payment of certain agricultural and other taxes by foreigners and foreign-protected persons in Morocco, which was signed at Tangier on the 23rd November, 1903.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 569 B.

Règlement concerning Payment of certain Taxes by Foreigners and Foreign-protected Persons in Morocco.

RÈGLEMENT concernant les impôts à percevoir des étrangers et des protégés à la campagne et dans toutes les villes de l'Empire du Maroc sur les animaux tels que chameaux, bœufs, moutons, et chèvres, et tels que chevaux, mulets, et ânes de selle et de travail; sur les arbres fruitiers, les terrains de culture, les potagers, et les plantations de henna. Le dit Règlement a été concerté entre Sid Benasser Ghannam, agissant au nom de Sa Majesté Chérifienne et les Représentants des Puissances au Maroc, tel qu'il est développé dans les Articles suivants:—

Article 1. Les étrangers et les protégés propriétaires de vergers de bestiaux, ou d'animaux des différentes espèces énumérées dans les Articles suivants, ou ayant des terrains de labour, ou d'autre culture, payeront au Maghzen, dans les conditions énoncées ci-dessous, les mêmes impôts qui sont payés annuellement par les sujets du Sultan.

Art. 2. Les chameaux destinés à l'élevage, au labour, ou au transport payeront par tête en monnaie Azizie 10 derhams (soit, en monnaie Espagnole, 20 réaux de

vellon). Les jeunes chameaux entrants dans la troisième année payeront 5 derhams, ou 10 réaux; les bœufs et les vaches, 5 derhams, ou 10 réaux; les veaux et les génisses ("drouba"), 2½ derhams, ou 5 réaux; les béliers, 100 derhams le 100, ou 200 réaux; et les brebis, 80 derhams le 100, ou 160 réaux; enfin les chèvres, 50 derhams le 100, ou 100 réaux.

Au-dessous de 100 béliers, brebis, et chèvres, la taxe sera perçue proportionnellement.

Art. 3. Les chevaux, les mulets, et les ânes d'élevage, de labour, ou de charge, payeront par tête, savoir:—

Les chevaux et les mulets, 5 derhams, ou 10 réaux; les ânes, 2 derhams, ou 4 réaux.

Art. 4. Il sera perçu par groupe de 100 arbres, savoir:—

Sur les oliviers de rapport et les amandiers, 50 derhams, ou 100 réaux.

Sur les orangers de diverses espèces et les palmiers, 25 derhams, ou 50 réaux.

Sur les autres arbres fruitiers, y compris la vigne et les arbres portants les fruits d'été et d'automne, 13½ derhams, ou 25 réaux.

Art. 5. Les terrains de culture et les étendues de terre labourée entre les arbres payeront une taxe fixée par paire de bêtes de labour (ou par charrue) soit:—

100 derhams, ou 200 réaux, par charrue de chameaux, de chevaux, ou de mulets;

50 derhams, ou 100 réaux, par charrue de bœufs;

25 derhams, ou 50 réaux, par charrue d'ânes.

Pour les labours effectués par une seule bête, à l'aide de la machine ou par d'autres moyens, il sera perçu une taxe proportionnelle, basée sur celle qui frappe l'étendue correspondante à une charrue.

Art. 6. Pour les potagers, plantations de henna, et d'autres cultures, il sera versé 5 pour cent sur le montant de l'estimation qui sera faite chaque année de la valeur de la récolte.

Art. 7. L'impôt annuel développé dans les Articles ci-dessus est égal pour tous, pour les fonctionnaires comme pour les particuliers, toutes réserves faites des droits et privilèges établis par les Traités.

Il ne pourra être réclamé aucun autre impôt à l'exception des arriérés antérieurs à l'établissement de ce Règlement, dus par les tribus Marocaines au Maghzen, et dont le payement s'impose.

Les taxes perçues sur les marchés de la campagne et des villes sur les objets vendus, et le droit des portes, resteront en vigueur sur les bases de la Convention de Madrid, en date du 24 Rejjeb, 1293 (Juillet 3, 1880).

Art. 8. Le Maghzen désignera par chaque ville ou tribu un Amin et deux Adouls, chargés du recensement annuel. Avant le 1er Février de chaque année, chaque étranger, censal ou protégé, remettra à l'autorité Consulaire de laquelle il relève, un état des biens indiqués plus haut qu'il possède. Celui qui parmi eux sera employé au service des Consulats remettra l'état de ses biens au Chef du poste Diplomatique ou Consulaire dont il relève.

L'autorité Consulaire adressera, avant le 15 Février, au Gouverneur de la ville de sa résidence, tous les états qui lui auront été remis; celui-ci les transmettra aux autorités compétentes désignées par le Maghzen, afin qu'elles en vérifient l'exactitude.

Dans un délai de quatre mois à dater de la remise de ces états au Gouverneur, ces agents devraient renvoyer à ce dernier pour chacun des ressortissants étrangers un bulletin, numéroté et daté, portant le nom et le domicil de l'intéressé, le nombre de ses biens imposés, et le montant de ce qu'il doit de ce chef. Ce bulletin portera la signature de l'Amin et des deux Adouls; le double en sera conservé par ceux-ci sur un registre. Après avoir revêtu de son sceau les bulletins, le Gouverneur les enverra aux autorités Consulaires pour leurs ressortissants respectifs.

L'autorité Consulaire transmettra alors les bulletins, préalablement visé par ses soins, aux intéressés, qui devront payer, par l'intermédiaire du Consul, vers le 15 Juin, avant la fête de l'Ansera, les sommes portées sur ces bulletins. Après le paiement, exécuté par l'intermédiaire du Gouverneur, entre les mains de l'Amin, celui-ci et les deux Adouls signeront chaque bulletin pour constater que le contribuable s'est acquitté à telle date.

Le bulletin, ainsi signé, sera rendu par l'Amin au Gouverneur pour être remis au contribuable par l'entremise de l'autorité Consulaire.

Art. 9. Toute dissimulation commise lors du recensement, et qui sera constatée

par l'enquête à laquelle procédera ultérieurement le Maghzen, sera punie d'une amende, dont le montant sera du double de la taxe afférente ou bien non déclarée; en cas de récidive cette amende sera encore doublée.

Art. 10. En cas de contestation au sujet du recensement avec l'étranger ou protégé, il sera désigné dans la ville la plus proche du lieu où la contestation se sera produite deux personnes, choisies l'une par le Gouverneur l'autre par le Consul duquel relèvera l'intéressé, et qui devront se transporter sur les lieux pour vérifier les faits. Si l'enquête donne raison au Maghzen, l'intéressé aura à supporter les frais des déplacements des deux enquêteurs, comprenant leurs salaires et la location des moyens de transport. Dans le cas contraire, ces frais seront à la charge du Gouvernement Marocain.

Au cas où une contestation se produira au sujet du recensement des biens d'un Consul s'adonnant à l'agriculture ou à l'élève de bétail, les bulletins les concernant seront adressés au Chef du poste Diplomatique ou Consulaire de qui il relève, afin qu'il soit procédé aux mêmes formalités de vérification auxquelles sont soumis les autres contribuables.

Ensuite, pour tous les contribuables, à quelque catégorie qu'ils appartiennent, avis de la contestation devra être communiqué au Consul, par les soins du Gouverneur, avant l'expiration du délai énoncé dans l'Article 8. Passé ce délai, toute réclamation sera repoussée, et le contribuable n'aura à payer que la taxe calculée d'après sa déclaration et portée sur le bulletin remis au Gouverneur par l'entremise du Consul.

De même, dans le cas où un bulletin ne sera point remis aux agents précités à l'époque où le bulletin doive leur parvenir, l'intéressé sera tenu de payer la taxe calculée par eux suivant l'inventaire qu'ils auront dressé, sans qu'aucune réclamation puisse être admise de ce chef de la part du contribuable.

Si l'un des susdits (étrangers, protégés, &c.) refusait de payer les taxes à l'époque spécifiée par l'Article 8, et que des mesures de contrainte devinssent nécessaires, ces mesures seront prises exclusivement par les soins de l'autorité Consulaire.

Si deux ou plusieurs ressortissants étrangers de différentes nationalités, associés par une entreprise agricole ou pour l'élève du bétail, refusent de payer les taxes ou les amendes visées par l'Article 9, en vertu de la Convention de Madrid, les autorités Consulaires respectives nommeront chacune un délégué pour procéder à la contrainte.

Le montant des taxes versées au Gouvernement Chérifien par l'entremise des Consuls sera exempt des droits établis par les Tarifs Consulaires.

Art. 11. Le Sultan a établi ce Règlement en raison de la situation actuelle; mais si, ultérieurement, Sa Majesté venait à décider d'y faire des modifications, une nouvelle réunion des Représentants des Puissances aurait lieu au sujet des modifications demandées.

De même, si les Représentants des Puissances reconnaissaient l'utilité de modifications suggérées par l'expérience, ils auraient le droit de s'entendre à ce sujet avec Sa Majesté Chérifienne pour qu'une réunion eut lieu en vue d'un accord.

Art. 12. Les contestations relatives à l'application du présent Règlement devront être tranchées dans le plus bref délai par les soins de l'Amin chargé de l'inventaire et du Consul.

Signé à Tanger le 23 Novembre, 1903.

(Signé) SID BENASSER GHANNAM.

(Signé) VON BRÜNING, *représentant l'Allemagne, la Suède et Norvège, et les Pays-Bas.*
G. DE GASPARDY.
Comte CONRAD DE BUISSERET.
B. J. DE COLOGAN.
S. R. GUMMERÉ.
L. DESCOS.
A. NICOLSON, *représentant la Grande-Bretagne et Danemark.*
G. MALMUSI.
CONDE DE MARTENS FERRAO.
B. BACHERACHT.

I did not proceed further into the matter, as any discussion on the question with my Spanish colleague would be purely academical; but as he had written at length to his Government on the subject, I thought I should inform your Lordship of what he had mentioned to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 569.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 248. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 3, 1903.

I RECEIVED yesterday evening a letter from Dr. Verdon from Fez, who reported that Mr. Langerman, the Commissioner of the St. Louis Exhibition for the Moorish Section, had had two audiences of the Sultan, at which he had expressed his willingness to return to the United States, where he could, without any difficulty, procure a loan of 2,000,000*l.*, or upwards, if the Moorish Government would agree to certain conditions. He had stated to His Majesty that it was clear neither England nor France were disposed to advance any money, and that he would do all in his power to extricate the Moorish Government from their difficulties.

Dr. Verdon subsequently called on Hadj Omar Tazee, the new confidant of the Sultan, and a brother of the Minister of Finance. Hadj Omar Tazee inquired of Dr. Verdon whether he had received any intelligence from London in regard to the progress of the loan negotiations. Dr. Verdon replied in the negative, and Omar Tazee thereupon said that Mr. Langerman had made some proposition as to supplying the Moorish Government with as much money as they might require, and had intimated to the Sultan that there was a private agreement between England and France, and that no assistance was to be expected from those quarters. Omar Tazee added, and Dr. Verdon is of opinion that herein he reflects the views of the Sultan, that he was sure that some understanding existed between Great Britain and France, and that the latter country would shortly take possession of Morocco in some form or another. Dr. Verdon came away from his interview with the impression that Omar Tazee, and presumably the Sultan also, was disposed to lend a willing ear to the overtures of Mr. Langerman, which at this juncture would seem to them particularly attractive.

It is probable that the terms which would be suggested by Mr. Langerman would take the form of some concession, railway, or mining. I have no knowledge as to whether he has any financial support in the United States, and reports are very conflicting as to his exact status. He has, however, gained the Sultan's goodwill and favour, and is a man of energy and enterprise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 570.

Messrs. Montagu and Co. and Messrs. Stern Brothers to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 17.)

My Lord, *London, December* 17, 1903.

WE have the honour to inclose herewith draft Agreement* with the Moorish Government proposed to be signed by us to-day.

We are informed that His Majesty's Government is prepared to give its approval to the first issue of 800,000*l.* of the loan, and assurances in the following terms:—

"The loan has the approval of His Majesty's Government, and in the special circumstances of the case they consent to take note of the terms of the contract as a binding engagement on the part of the Moorish Government. In the event of the Moorish Government repudiating or disregarding the engagement, His Majesty's

* Not printed.

Government will be ready to afford support to the lenders in pressing for the fulfilment of the contract. It would, however, obviously be necessary that His Majesty's Government should be free to decide the method and extent of the support which could be given, according to the actual circumstances of the case."

On receiving a letter signed by your Lordship to this effect, and authorizing us to have the above statement indorsed upon the bond for 800,000*l.*, and upon the trust certificates in respect of this loan which will be issued to the public, we shall be prepared to sign the Agreement on our part, which will then be taken to Morocco (in order that the signature of the Moorish Government may be obtained) by Kaid Sir Harry Maclean, K.C.M.G., who proposes to leave to-morrow.

It is quite understood by us that the above assurance differs entirely from any guarantee of interest or capital of the loan, which could only be given by Act of Parliament, and the prospectus which will be issued to the public shall contain a statement to this effect.

We have, &c.
(Signed) SAMUEL MONTAGU AND CO.
STERN BROTHERS.

No. 571.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co., and Messrs. Stern Brothers.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, December* 17, 1903.

I HAVE received your letter of this day's date, inclosing the draft of an Agreement which you propose to sign with the Representative of the Moorish Government for a loan to that Government of 1,500,000*l.*, of which the first issue is to be for 800,000*l.*

His Majesty's Government are prepared to give their approval to the first issue of 800,000*l.* of the loan, and an assurance in the following terms:—

"The loan has the approval of His Majesty's Government, and in the special circumstances of the case they consent to take note of the terms of the Contract as a binding engagement on the part of the Moorish Government. In the event of the Moorish Government repudiating or disregarding the engagement, His Majesty's Government will be ready to afford support to the lenders in pressing for the fulfilment of the Contract. It would, however, obviously be necessary that His Majesty's Government should be free to decide the method and extent of the support which could be given according to the actual circumstances of the case."

You are authorized to have the above statement indorsed upon the Bond for 800,000*l.* and upon the Trust Certificates in respect of this loan which will be issued to the public.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 572.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 17, 1903.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 1st instant, and your reply of the same date, relative to a proposed loan to the Moorish Government, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter from Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. and Messrs. Stern Brothers,* inclosing a draft Agreement, with Annexes, for a loan to the Moorish Government of 1,500,000*l.*, of which the first issue is to be for 800,000*l.*

It is intended that this loan shall take the place of the loan of 500,000*l.* which Messrs. Forwood Brothers had in contemplation, and shall also cover the loan of 300,000*l.* arranged in March last by Messrs. Cassel and Co. and Stern Brothers.

* No. 570.

I am at the same time to inclose the draft of the answer which Lord Lansdowne proposes to return to Messrs. Montagu and Stern,* and I am to request that you will be good enough to inform me, at your earliest convenience, whether the proposed reply meets with their Lordships' concurrence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 573.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 653.)
My Lord, *Paris, December* 17, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the "Dépêche Coloniale," stating that the French Government has submitted to the Chamber of Deputies a Bill for the construction of a railway from Tlemcen, the present terminus of a branch of the West Algerian Railway, to Lalla Maghnia and the Morocco frontier at a point 14 kilom. distant from Oudjda.

I will endeavour to obtain the text of this proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 573.

Extract from the "Dépêche Coloniale" of December 17, 1903.

LE Gouvernement vient de saisir la Chambre d'un projet de Loi relatif à l'établissement d'un chemin de fer de Tlemcen à Lalla Maghrnia et à la frontière du Maroc. La création de cette ligne présente, on le voit, un grand intérêt, pnisqu'elle assure une pénétration plus grande de l'influence Française au Maroc. De plus, il est à prévoir que la voie ferrée, dont la création est proposée, se prolongera un jour jusqu'à Fez.

La construction aura lieu à voie large. La ligne se dirige à partir de Tlemcen par le col du Juif; elle franchit ce col, descend sur Aïn Douz, passe à Aïn Sabra, après avoir contourné l'oued Tlet; elle gagne ensuite la Vallée de la Tafna, après avoir traversé l'oned Ksod et l'oued Hallon, franchit la Tafna auprès de Sidi Medjaheh, puis l'oued Ouaame et l'oued Malimet. Elle atteint ensuite Maghrnia et arrive à la frontière du Maroc à 14 kilom. de la ville d'Oudja. La longueur à construire est de 70 kilom. environ.

La ligne est concédée à l'Ouest Algérien, mais l'hypothèse est prévue, dans le projet, du rachat par l'État du réseau Algérien. La garantie de l'État porte sur les dépenses qui seront réellement faites par la Compagnie dans la limite d'un maximum de 20,700,000 fr.

Pour le calcul de la garantie, le maximum des dépenses d'exploitation est fixé à 6,500 fr. par kilomètre.

No. 574.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 251. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 9, 1903.

CID MEHEDI-EL-MENEBHI, the former Minister of War, arrived here on the evening of the 7th instant on his way to Mecca. He paid me a visit yesterday evening, and I had some conversation with him on the general situation.

He stated that he had parted from the Sultan on good terms, and that His Majesty had sent orders to the local authorities to treat him with due consideration and attention. He seemed to be quite satisfied with his reception at Tangier, and during

* No. 571.

the course of conversation he always alluded in loyal and respectful terms to His Majesty.

El Menebhi stated that he had resigned his office as he was weary of a task in the fulfilment of which he met with no support, and as he found that any advice which he gave in regard to military operations was continually thwarted and set aside. He was convinced that if the recent campaign against the Pretender had been conducted with more vigour and persistency, the rebellion would have been completely crushed. As matters at present stood, the agitation was as active as ever, and though there was a temporary lull, he considered that in a short time the Moorish Government would find themselves face to face with as great difficulties as heretofore, and with diminished forces to meet them. He heard that the Pretender was collecting a force at Taza, with which he would probably take action as soon as the fast month was terminated, and he thought that the Pretender would operate in the direction of the Riff and Oojdah, where he had many partisans, rather than undertake an advance on Fez, though if he were sufficiently venturesome to attack the capital he would have little difficulty in entering it, as the garrison was weak, and the population disloyal.

El Menebhi feared that troubles would also shortly occur in the southern districts, and he cited instances as showing how slight was the respect in which Government authority was held, and how disorder and turbulence were ready at any moment to break out. He was, however, of opinion that if the Government were successful in repressing the rebellion, and acted with circumspection and tact, it might be possible for them, at no very distant date, to collect taxes from the tribes in the plains. In present circumstances the imposition of taxes would be a dangerous and difficult procedure. He added that the Moorish Government was very hard pressed for money, but he himself was opposed to the system of raising loans abroad. The Government could without difficulty obtain sufficient funds for their requirements in the near future if they sold some of the Crown lands.

El Menebhi proposes to remain here for a few days and then proceed to Mecca, and he intends on his return to Morocco to settle down on his estates in the south, and undertake their management. He has no desire whatever to re-enter the public service.

The greater part of the interview was occupied with the private affairs of El Menebhi, on which he desired to consult me, and he was so much preoccupied with these matters, which are, naturally, in his present situation, of great moment to him, that it was difficult to induce him to speak at any length, or with much interest, on public questions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 575.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 252.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 10, 1903.*

THE Moorish Government recently informed the foreign Representatives that it was intended to punish a tribe called the Oolad Bouziri who had been committing many depredations and requested us to warn our nationals to withdraw any property or cattle which might be in the hands of the delinquents.

Cid Mehedi-el-Menebhi has given me a letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation, which he has just received from the Kaïd who was to command the punitive expedition. This letter is of interest as it is a confidential official Report from that officer to El Menebhi as Minister of War, and it gives authentic intelligence as to the public feeling in the districts in the south of Morocco.

The Kaïd laments that no contingents appeared to join his force, and he mentions by name several important tribes in the Houz district, the extensive province stretching from Mazagan southwards to the Atlas, who declined to respond to the call to arms; and he states that the Deputy Governors were in sympathy with the dissidents. The Mesfia tribe to which allusion is made have their habitat to the south-east of Morocco City.

I am afraid that it is evident that the southern districts which hitherto have been ready to dispatch contingents to assist the Sultan are now ill-disposed to renew their

services. This attitude is most unsatisfactory, as if the Sultan wishes to renew hostilities in the early spring against the Pretender, he will meet with very great difficulty in obtaining the necessary forces to do so. El Menebhi considers the facts as disclosed in the Report of the Kaïd are ominous for the immediate future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 575.

Kaïd of Metooga to El Menebhi.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 14 *Ramadan*, 1321 (*December* 4, 1903).

I INFORM you that I received His Majesty's letter instructing me to hasten to set out with the Houz expedition (Harka) to camp at Dar-al-Baida so that the Governors of Showia might join it with their contingents for the purpose of attacking the Oolad Bouziri and others like them who have pillaged the houses of their Governors. When I received this letter at my house I undertook the fatigue of the journey to Morocco City, although I was hardly capable of it, as you know the state of my health. I reached the city in seven days with my tribal contingent and remained there a whole month but not one of the tribes joined me, and their contingents who were with His Majesty have returned to their homes none of them remaining with His Majesty, still less will they join me. Not one of them even mentions such a thing, they have thrown His Majesty's orders behind their backs, and the tribes of Haha, Shiadma, Oolad Bon Sebaa, El Adiara, Seraghna, Rahamna, Dukala, Abda and others have not collected their contingents, and their Khalifas seeing this left them alone and were in sympathy with them. When I was in my province I remarked that there was considerable unrest amongst the neighbouring tribes, and when I reached Marrakest I found the Houz tribes were most strongly tainted with this feeling. Without doubt His Majesty has not heard of it; I inform you that you may have cognizance of it, as Mesfiwa have attacked Orriga and have pillaged their houses and property and killed some of their people. The latter sought assistance but found none. The contingent of our tribe is away at Tangier with the Khalifa Hadj Ombark-bel-Hosein, who sent a portion to Fez; they were present at the entry of His Majesty and saw the Houz contingents leave for their homes, not one of them remaining. They complained to the Khalifa of the length of their absence from their homes. He wrote to me on the subject and I sent his letter to His Majesty that he might take pity on them. All the tribes ridicule them and laugh at them for furnishing contingents for two expeditions and they are annoyed with them for doing so. If the Houz expedition is by His Majesty's orders I must ask you to send my contingent with another Khalifa as I am incapable and my illness increases in the cold season. The Basha, El Arbi-ben-Aboo, has died and the bearer is my friend and will speak with you. Peace, &c.

(Signed) ABDEL MALEK EL METOOGI.

No. 576.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 254.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 12, 1903.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 126 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copy of a letter which I have addressed to Major Spilsbury in reply to recent communications from that gentleman on the subject of the confiscation by the Moorish Government of certain contraband goods landed by the "Tourmaline" on the coast of Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 576.

Mr. Ewart to Major Spilsbury.

Sir, *Tangier, December* 10, 1903.

I AM desired by His Majesty's Minister to acknowledge the receipt of your post card, dated the 28th November.

Sir A. Nicolson considers that with reference to your letter of the 7th November it does not come within his duties to reply to communications so worded, but that* his refusal to enter into discussion must not be taken as in any way implying an admission of your statements and arguments, which are in many important respects incorrect and misleading. There is nothing, however, in Sir A. Nicolson's own letters which he desires to withhold from publication.

Sir A. Nicolson desires me to add that he referred the correspondence to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; and that his Lordship considers that the course taken by Sir A. Nicolson in regard to the rifles was perfectly correct; and that the fact that you were acquitted on a charge of riot and assault in no way invalidates the claim of the Moorish Government to confiscate arms which were introduced into Moorish territory in defiance of the law.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. H. LEE EWART.

No. 577.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 255.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 13, 1903.

THE Spanish Minister informed me yesterday that he had learnt that the agents here of M. Maurel had received telegrams from that gentleman, urging that the negotiations in regard to his proposed loan should be hastened, and that, consequently, a special courier had been dispatched to Fez requesting that the Moorish Government should, without delay, state whether they were or were not disposed to accept the terms which had been offered.

I inquired this morning of the Legation Banker whether he could give me any information as to how matters stood in regard to this proposed loan.

Mr. Abensur confirmed what the Spanish Minister had stated to me; and he further gave me the following information. He and his financial associates here had considered that it would be difficult to persuade the Moorish Government to sanction the presence of agents at the custom-houses to daily check the receipts; and that they, in presenting the terms to the Moorish Government, modified these proposals by suggesting that the agents should simply daily receive the statement of the Customs Administration as to the receipts, without exercising themselves any check or control over the accuracy of the statements. M. Maurel had at first demurred to this modification, as he considered that the Customs Administration might render inaccurate statements. He had subsequently written, however, to say that after consulting with the Quai d'Orsay, he would not maintain his objection, and would be satisfied by the procedure proposed by his agents here. M. Abensur further said that the French Minister, who has recently returned from leave of absence, had informed one of M. Maurel's agents here that the French Government had cognizance of the loan. The matter, therefore, seems now to depend on the reply of the Moorish Government, which is expected at the end of this week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

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* This "that" ought to have been omitted.—W. E. D.

No. 578.

Treasury to the Foreign Office.—(Received December 19.)

Sir, *Treasury Chambers, December* 17, 1903.

I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of to-day's date relative to the proposed loan to the Moorish Government, and to acquaint you in reply, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, that my Lords concur in the terms of the draft letter to Messrs. Montagu and Stern transmitted therewith.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. W. HAMILTON.

No. 579.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 664.)
My Lord, *Paris, December* 20, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 643 of the 4th instant, and other correspondence respecting proposed loans by French banking houses to the Moorish Government, I have the honour to inclose copies of an article published by the "Temps" of yesterday evening under the heading "Vers le Maroc," which has some appearance of coming from an inspired source.*

The writer states that it is now generally agreed in competent circles that French policy towards Morocco should take the form of a substantial loan, to be accompanied by financial control, and by measures for the restoration of order, and to be followed by the construction of railways and other public works.

The construction of the line from Tlemcen to Lalla Maghnia is described as being a first step towards the creation of a railway system in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 580.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 198.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 23, 1903.

REPLY to proposition as to French loan has been sent by Moorish Government.

Dates of repayment, rate of interest, and amount are accepted by them, but, with reference to proposed supervision of Customs accounts, further information is required. Any kind of Customs control does not seem to be viewed favourably by them.

No. 581.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Adam.

(No. 156.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 23, 1903.

THE Spanish Ambassador asked me to-day whether my attention had been directed to statements lately made in the French press and in the Chambers as to French designs upon Morocco. His Excellency mentioned particularly the possibility of the construction of French railways reaching to the Algerian frontier and eventually to be extended to the Moorish sea-board, railways which would no doubt require to be guarded, and of which the cost would apparently be defrayed by means of Moorish loans to be issued under French auspices. I told his Excellency that I had always considered it inevitable that France, owing to the geographical position of her Algerian

* Not printed.

Colonies, must acquire a predominant influence at all events over that portion of Morocco which adjoined Algeria. His Majesty's Government had, however, never made a secret of their opinion that it would be necessary that Spain should be fully consulted as to any arrangements affecting the future of Morocco. I had no reason to believe that the French Government had any desire to annex that country, although they, no doubt, wished to extend their influence as much as possible within it.

In reply to an observation made by his Excellency as to Tangier, I said that we should certainly regard it as essential that those portions of the Moorish coast-line which adjoined the Straits of Gibraltar should not pass into the hands of another Power.

I took the opportunity of mentioning to his Excellency that the Representatives of the Moorish Government had within the last few days been successful in obtaining a loan in this country for an amount which, after paying off the Cassel loan of 300,000*l.* and other loans amounting to something less than 200,000*l.* contracted with banks in this country, would provide the Moorish Government with about 300,000*l.* to meet their expenses. I asked his Excellency whether any attempt had been made to borrow in Spain. He replied that he thought not, and that if such an attempt were made he doubted whether the Spanish financiers would be likely to lend themselves to such a transaction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 582.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 667.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 24, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Report by Colonel Stuart-Wortley, Military Attaché to this Embassy, concerning General O'Connor's transfer from the Oran Division.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 582.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart-Wortley to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 67.)
Sir, *Paris, December 22, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, that in this day's "Journal Officiel" it is announced that General O'Connor, Commanding the Oran Division, has been transferred to the command of the 8th Infantry Division at Mans, and has been replaced by General Hason, commanding the 8th Infantry Division.

The reasons for this change in an important command are not quite evident, whether General O'Connor has himself applied to be relieved in a command which was a source of constant anxiety, and that he requires rest, or whether it is that, owing to the refusal of the Minister of War to carry into effect the more vigorous measures which he has recommended to insure the safety of the Algerian-Moroccan frontier.

General O'Connor is an officer of great ability and experience, and his removal at this moment from the command of the Oran Division, including all the posts along the Moroccan frontier, would appear as a sign that the French Government are opposed to any military measures being taken other than those of a defensive nature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. STUART-WORTLEY,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.

No. 583.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 674.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 24, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Report by Colonel Stuart-Wortley, Military Attaché to this Embassy, respecting French movements on the south-west Algerian-Moroccan frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 583.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart-Wortley to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 70.)
Sir, *Paris, December 24, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, that in this month's issue of the "Comité de l'Afrique Française" a paragraph appears concerning "l'occupation du versant occidental du Béchar." Béchar is situated about 120 kilom. south-west of Figuig, and is the most important place in the country of the Doui Menia.

The paragraph states tbat the right conferred upon France by the Protocol of 1901 to exercise a jurisdiction over the Doui Menia and the Oulad Djerir has remained almost a dead letter until this day. Those nomadic tribes, whose country the French do not occupy, remained independent, with the exception of a small number who gave their submission because their interests brought them near to the French posts on the Ouad Sousfana, that is, the line of posts from Figuig to Igli. It became necessary to occupy the country situated to the west of Djebel Béchar. With this object a column left Beni Ounif on the 8th November, under the orders of Commandant Pierron. The column was composed of two companies of the Foreign Legion, of which one was mounted, one company of tirailleurs, two troops of Spahis, a section of artillery, and thirty native guides. Commandant Pierron has chosen a position for the new post near to Béchar, and commenced to instal himself there on the 13th November.

This post will be called Tagda. It will protect the convoys proceeding from Djenan-ed-Dar—just south of Figuig—to Taghit.

The whole region is now protected by posts echeloned at distances from 20 kilom. to 25 kilom., the posts being at Ain Sefra, Djenen Bou Rezg, Hadjerat M'Guil, Duveyrier, El Ardja, Beni Ounif, Djenan-ed-Dar, Bou Yala, Ben Zireg, Tagda, Ksar-el-Azoudj, Hassi-il-Mir, El Morra, Taghit, Igli, Beni Abbes, &c., as far as the Saharien oases.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. STUART-WORTLEY,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.

No. 584.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 256.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 15, 1903.*

THE reports which I received yesterday from the Consular Officers in the coast towns show that the country is in an unsettled condition, and the authority of the Government is little respected.

Mr. Consul Maclean, who is disposed to take a more cheerful view than the other Consular officers, states that the road between Dar-el-Baida and Rabat is infested with robbers, who only permit caravans to pass on payment of a blackmail of 3 dollars per camel, and he adds that "an unhappy sign of the times is a recrudescence of the old custom of tribes demanding tolls from caravans passing through their territories, as if they were independent. This is the case now in M'zab and Oolad Hariz." Mr. Maclean is,

however, of opinion that the disturbances should not be taken too seriously, and trusts that when people are occupied with their agricultural operations tranquillity will ensue.

Mr. Vice-Consul Spinney writes from Mazagan that the house of a local Governor has been destroyed, and that "it appears matters all round are pretty lively. Moorish affairs seem hopeless."

Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot reports from Saffi that "it would be impossible to levy taxes in the present condition of the people. Any attempt to impose them would, I believe, result in rebellion against the officials. In the provinces of Zemran, Sragna, and Shedna, and, I believe, also in Rahamna, the present officials are men selected by the tribes themselves. In Dukalla the people are in a state of rebellion. The Kasbah of Kaïd Boo Ali el Ferji and that of the Woolad Amren Kaïd have been looted and demolished, and the Khalifa's (Deputy Governors) have fled. It is reported that there is some understanding between the Dukalla tribes and others with a view of opposing the Governors when they return from the Court, where they all are at present. In Soos not one of the Government Kaïds exists; several were murdered, and their castles have been looted and destroyed.

Mr. Vice-Consul Madden reports from Mogador that the roads near that town are not safe, and that people are stopped and robbed, but not killed. He adds that there is a certain unrest in some districts, and that "Government authority is very weak, and the Governors half-hearted and afraid of their own people."

Mr. Consul Maclean is of opinion that the fall of El Menebhi may produce trouble in the south of Morocco. In a private letter to me he writes as follows:—"All through the south Menebhi is popular. It takes a long time for native likes and dislikes to show themselves, but I shall be greatly mistaken if his removal does not materially weaken the Sultan's hold over southern Morocco, particularly with powerful tribes like Rahamna, Menebhi, and Zimran. The south hates the north, particularly the official classes of Fez and Rabat, who until lately held all the Government posts worth having."

The general tenour of the above reports is not reassuring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 585.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 257.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 17, 1903.

CID MEHEDI-EL-MENEBHI paid me a visit yesterday evening, and gave me a detailed and graphic account of his campaigns against the rebels. His information corresponded accurately with the reports which I had received from time to time from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, and which I had the honour to communicate to your Lordship. He considered that the Pretender was an able man, and had contrived to acquire great influence over the mountain tribes; but he maintained his opinion that the disaffection of the tribes and their hostility to the Government had now struck such deep roots that were any misfortune to occur personally to the Pretender the situation would be but slightly, if at all, altered. He mentioned one or two of the lieutenants of the Pretender as active and competent leaders, especially Cid Abdel Aziz, who is in command of the Oojdah district, and who, according to a telegram which was yesterday received from the Moorish Commissioner in that town, is gaining many partisans. This information is, I see, confirmed in the local press of this morning by telegrams from Melilla.

El Menebhi is convinced that before long the authority of the Sultan would be disavowed throughout the country, and that unless His Majesty in early spring were to organize and conduct a successful campaign throughout the northern and eastern districts the southern portion of Morocco will lose all respect for and confidence in the Government. He, nevertheless, did not see how sufficient troops could be collected to insure the success of a campaign, nor was he acquainted with any Moorish official who was competent to lead a force. He assured me that he had been in collaboration with all the principal officials of the Court and Government, and had witnessed their conduct in the field, and there was not one who had the vigour, courage, or capacity necessary to conduct a campaign. El Menebhi's opinion on these points may, in present circumstances, not be quite impartial, but from what I have gathered from other sources and from many incidents during the past twelve months, I think that his appreciation of the qualities of his former colleagues and associates is, as regards military operations, not far wide of the mark.

I told him that rumours had reached me that the Sultan was contemplating removing his Court to Rabat, and inquired whether, in his opinion, such a step was probable. He replied that he did not believe His Majesty could be considering a removal to Rabat. In the first place, a march to that port would not be feasible with the few troops His Majesty had at present at his disposal. It would be impossible to pass through the Beni Hassan tribe, for instance, without a much larger force than the Sultan had at Fez; and, secondly, the departure of His Majesty from the capital while matters were in their present condition would mean the immediate triumph of the rebellion. As he expressed it, the Fez population would, in such an event, not await the arrival of the Pretender, but would "carry him into the capital and give him their allegiance." It was absolutely necessary, he said, that the Sultan should in early spring completely pacify the northern districts before dreaming of making any move southwards; but he repeated that he did not see, with the means at his command and without competent leadership, how such a pacification was possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 586.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 258.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 18, 1903.

CID MOHAMMED GABBAS, the newly appointed Minister of War, arrived here yesterday from Algiers in the French cruiser "Linois," and called upon me in the evening. He had received urgent orders to proceed at once to Fez, and intended to start this morning.

Cid Mohammed Gabbas, during the short conversation I had with him, gave me to understand that he entered unwillingly upon his new duties, as he considered the condition of affairs to be most unsatisfactory, and the prospects of re-establishing order and tranquillity somewhat remote. He doubted if any real progress in military operations could be made until the Sultan had at his disposal a trained and well-drilled force, as it was idle to expect peasants swept up from the country to immediately develop into efficient soldiers.

If active operations are to be postponed till Cid Mohammed Gabbas has brought into being a properly-trained force, the duration of the rebellion is likely to be prolonged; and though the tribal contingents are a motley and ragged band, the enemy with whom they have to contend is in no wise superior in quality.

Cid Mohammed Gabbas said he had many important and curious tales to relate to me of the difficulties and incidents he had met with during his work on the Frontier Commission; but that the short time at his disposal prevented him from entering into them on the present occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 587.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 259.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 18, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit translation of a letter which Cid Mehedi-el-Menebhi has received from a correspondent in the southern provinces, and which gives some further and later particulars as to the condition of affairs in those districts.

The Oolad Said, to whom reference is made, has hitherto been one of the most peaceful and loyal tribes; and it is an unsatisfactory sign to hear that they have risen against their Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 587.

Letter addressed to Cid Mehedi-el-Menebhi.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Ramadan* 25, 1321 (*December* 15, 1903).

I RECEIVED your letter by the bearer who landed from the English steamer with the rest, and you ask me to give you news of the occurrences in this district. Know that the Showia Kabilas are very disorderly, especially the Ulad Bouziri. You have already heard of their acts; also the Ulad Said have pillaged their Kasbah and the house of their Governor Cid-el-Ayashi, and have demolished it, and have violated the harem. This was last Saturday (the 12th December). Settat is in a doubtful state, and Kaïd Cid-el-Hadj-el-Maati-el-Mzamzi has reached Dar-el-Baida accompanied by the Kaïds Raha, among whom is Cid Abbas, brother of the Fakieh Menebhi, to patch up the disturbance in Ulad Said against the Khalifas of their Governors. They passed one night at Dar-el-Baida with Hadj-el-Maati, then left and slept at Kasbah-ben-Bershid: they there heard of what had happened in Ulad Said, thereupon Kaïd Hadj-el-Maati returned thence, and he did not reach his house, and the Kaïds Raha remained at Kasbah-ben-Bershid. Nobody comes in on the roads from Seraghna since a long time.

Also Ziaida have committed highway robberies, and that matter is still unsettled. The Kabilas of Ulad Hariz and M'zab have been fighting heavily, each side losing many men, and the Kaïd of Mediuna and the Khalifa of Ulad Zian have gone with their tribesmen to effect a pacification between the two tribes.

As for the Houz, we only hear good news from there at present. The said Kaïds Raha have not brought anything with them, but have come alone.

No. 588.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 203.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 29, 1903.

TRADE is suffering much, and great distress is being caused among the commercial and other classes here, owing to the monetary crisis brought about by the depreciation of the new Moorish coinage. I consider this financial situation of graver import than political condition of affairs. The difficulties are only beginning, and financial people are anxious as to future, unless Moorish Government adopt prompt remedies. If Sir E. Cassel could send a confidential expert here to report on situation I think it would be well, and, though I am a mere layman in these matters, I think he should be told that financial aspect and prospects are, in my opinion, unsatisfactory. I am anxious Sir E. Cassel should have a clear idea of the financial condition, and therefore suggest his sending an expert here.

I have shown this telegram to Kaïd Maclean, who was not aware of this crisis when in London.

No. 589.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 204.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 29, 1903.

KAÏD MACLEAN would be glad if Sir E. Cassel could have the following communicated to him:—

"The first and second paragraphs of your telegram of yesterday will be carried out, and are understood.

"The advance of 13,000*l.*, and with regard to its repayment. A large amount of Moorish coinage is held by the Moorish Government in Tangier, and, as a security for repayment, I can obtain 132,000 dol. of this coinage, which would mean, including

interest, 100 per cent. on amount. The rate of exchange being already at 65 per cent., the Moorish Government do not wish to buy bills with this coinage, as it would still further distract the money market, and would raise the rate of exchange. The above amount of new coinage I propose to take as a receipt, and guarantee that, directly advance is repaid, I will return it.

"Owing to the heavy rains, communications with Fez are greatly delayed, and, though Customs officials have sent there for Royal letters respecting this advance, a reply will not be received for eighteen days.

"A letter from Customs officials here is not considered by Sir A. Nicolson as sufficient guarantee, and he thinks that Tangier Customs could not be relied on to pay 1,000*l.* a week; he also does not know whether my suggestion would be considered satisfactory with regard to the deposit of amount of new coinage in the hands of the Legation Bankers."

No. 590.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 57.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 30, 1903.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 203 of the 29th instant, Sir E. Cassel would be glad of your opinion whether there is a reasonable prospect of the Moorish Government following the advice of an Agent in the event of his sending one for the purpose of investigating the financial situation, and, possibly, suggesting a basis for the reorganization of the finances of the country, together with financial assistance.

No. 591.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 205.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 31, 1903.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 57 of the 30th instant.

Unless Financial Adviser was resident at the Court, and was strongly supported by His Majesty's Government, also by the French, and, perhaps, one or two other Governments, I do not think that Moorish Government could be relied on to carry out honestly and fully any advice as to financial reorganization. I fear that little or no practical results would be attained otherwise.

As the financial position has altered since the discussions commenced in London, I suggested that an expert should be sent here to give his opinion with regard to present position before the final conclusion of loan negotiations.

No. 592.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 206.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 31, 1903.

MESSAGE to Sir E. Cassel from Kaïd Maclean:—

"With regard to your telegram of yesterday's date. The interest due is not 13,000*l.*, as stated in my previous telegrams, but 13,500*l.*

"134,000 dol. will be deposited by Customs authorities at Legation Bank, the actual silver value of which, including interest for three months at 6 per cent., and expenses, would be equivalent of 9,000*l.* Allowance for remelting, should this become necessary, in London and transport there are calculated in expenses.

"Document, engaging on behalf of Government to repay in three months whole amount of 13,500*l.*, and, in case of default, authorizing sale of deposit, and guaranteeing to make good any difference, will be given by Customs authorities. The signature of

His Shereefian Majesty's Deputy here will be affixed to document, approving above-mentioned undertaking. It is considered by Sir A. Nicolson that security would be satisfactory with this signature. Should Coutts or your name be inserted in the document?

"If you agree to above, kindly telegraph without delay. I am informed that the French are still pressing their loan, and am much disappointed you have suspended British loan. I can start at once for Fez, as translations are ready. French terms, which are better for Moorish Government than ours, will be accepted if we refuse, as the Government must have a loan from somewhere."

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